

THE SCHLOCK Of The MELENNEUM

The Dome is a mess says David Mellor COMMENT PAGE 19



Become your

Relationships for a new generation EATURES, PAGE 16



The Nicola Horlick of the north Superwoman who

shocked the bank



THE CLUBS THAT MEN CAN'T JOIN **Exclusive places for** ladies only



INDEPE

Thursday 26 February 1998 45p

US shooting lobby funds **countryside** march

Exclusive

By Ian Burrell

By John Carlin

IT COULD have been mis-

chievous teenagers. It could

have been a solitary anarchist.

It could have been Saddam

Hussein, or Hamas, or North

Korea, or the Cali Cartel, or any

other nation or organisation

with a grudge against the US.

system has been under sus-

tained, successful and anony-

mous cyber attack during the

sast two weeks. The news has

prompted alarm in military cir-

cles at the vulnerability of the

US in the face of a form of war-

fare that could be the shape of

and systematic attack the Pen-

tagon has seen to date." John

defence, said yesterday. Hack-

"It was the most organised

conflict in the 21st century.

The Pentagon's computer

in Washington

AMERICA'S shooting and hunting lobby has been London. The organisers have bankrolling this weekend's mass march pledged to save the British country way of life.

The Duke Of Westminster, Britain's richest man, has also given more than £1m to the orhunting. Other supporters include the chairmen of some of

*Hacker breaks into

Pentagon computer

which runs horseracing.

Sunday's march is expected hired 2,000 coaches and 25 are setting up a one-day radio station, March FM.

The Independent has estab- by groups. lished that much of the money ganisers of the Countryside for the £500,000 event is comrural jobs and promote fox- and wealthy landowners and

The man who thought up the Britain's biggest companies, in- march and who has master-

Pentagon computer files na-

tionwide in a succession of

tration to some degree," Mr

Hamre said, but he stressed that

the attackers had failed to ac-

He did not believe the at-

tacks had been connected to the

Iraqi crisis, but he described

them as a "wake-up call" on the

vulnerability of sensitive infor-

mation in both government

and corporate computers. The

attackers may have penetrated

the private sector too, he said.

have been investigating but so

far have no idea of the attack-

ers' identity. Mr Hamre sug-

gested the Pentagon might have

fallen victim to a small number

of individuals playing a game,

whether one person or many

The FBI and the military

cess classified data.

"All the services had pene-

cluding Sir Alick Rankin, of minded funding of the cam-General Accident, and Jonny paign to save country sports in Weatherby of Weatherby's, Britain is Chicago-born lawyer Eric Bettelheim.

London-based Mr Bettelto attract 250,000 people to heim is secretary of the Countryside Business Group (CBG), which was formed two years ago trains to bring in supporters and to pay for the fight against the threat to the countryside from animal rights activists and lob-

The 10-strong team set up to run the CBG included Sir Al-March, which is intended to save ing from overseas supporters ick Rankin and Mr Weatherby as well as Nick Bannister, a senior executive of ABN Amro investment bank, and Alain Drach, chairman of the in-

ternational gunmaking company Holland & Holland.

The CBG, the British Field Sports Society and the Countryside Movement are the three elements in the Countryside Alliance. The Countryside Movement's accounts show that the Duke of Westminster has given £1.3m to the organisation in the form of an unsecured and interest-free loan. The Duke's office said this week: "He never expected that the money

would be given back."

Claws out on the catwalk ...

the march. An auction at Sotheby's in New York raised over £100,000 by selling hunting and shooting holidays in Britain to

Americans, Among those pre-

sent were Willem FP de Vogel, a leading New York venture capitalist, and C Martin Wood Flowers, one of the largest bakery companies in America.

Lt-Col Dennis Foster, executive majority and about people not director of the American Master of Foxhounds Association, Tonight, beacons will be lit presented a cheque for the in more than 15 US states in auction proceeds to Lord Mansupport of the 3,000 beacons be-croft, deputy chairman of the ing ignited in Britain ahead of Countryside Alliance, which is

organising this weekend's march. Yesterday, Lt-Col Foster said that American shooting and hunting organisations had "given a considerable amount of money" to the British countryside campaign. "If you allow a precedent to come about in III. senior vice-president of England it will set the stage for many other things," he said. "This is an enormous injustice. On a recent visit to London, It is about a minority versus a

> understanding wildlife." Lord Mancroft confirmed the American gift and said the alliance was "extremely grateful" for the money.

Right to roam, page 4

Patten quits Murdoch to escape book censorship

Exclusive

By Andrew Buncombe

CHRIS PATTEN, the last governor of Hong Kong, has switched publishers for his forthcoming memoirs to prevent editorial censorship by Rupert Murdoch.

Mr Patten has decided to have his book East and West published by Macmillan rather than Mr Murdoch's company HarperCollins.

The move follows a row over Mr Murdoch's attempt to censor criticism of the Chinese authorities contained within the book, which recounts Mr Patten's experiences in the former colony. Yesterday, it was announced that Stuart Proffitt the senior editor at Harper-Collins who had been working on East and West - had left the company. His departure comes in the wake of a altercation with senior executives over an instruction to alter the text.

Mr Murdoch has extensive business interests in South-east Asia and in 1994 stopped the BBC-considered by China to be unfriendly - from broadcasting on Star TV, his Far East satellite channel. Mr Patten denounced that move as a "seedy betrayal"

of the right to free speech. The former governor said last night: "I am adamant that my book will be read the way I intended it to be read. It is going to be quite a story." Editor's departure, page 2



'Independent' is the top newspaper for photographs



Best for sport: Christopher Shaw in action in the pool photographed by David Ashdown

The Independent was last night named Diageo Newspaper of the Year in the annual British Picture Editors' Awards. The prize was presented to Rosie Boycott, editor of the Independent and the Independent on Sunday. by the Prime Minister, Tony Blair. The newspaper also received the award for the best use of black and white photography.

Picture of the Day, page 18



Best for news: John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, photographed by David Rose

Today's news

Damon Albarn attacks Labour luyvies BLUR'S Damon Albarn yesterday criticised Labour luvvies who flock to Downing Street bashes. The lead singer of the Britpop band was speaking at a Westminster protest against student tuition fees.

Rub-on cholera vaccine

SCIENTISTS today announce the discovery a needle-free way of giving vaccinations by rubbing liquid from the cholera bug

Blair firm on lone-parent benefits TONY BLAIR yesterday slapped down accusations by

William Hague in the Commons that Labour is planning a U-turn over lone-parent benefits.

TWO OF the country's largest insurers, Commercial Union

and General Accident, yesterday announced 3,000 job losses as part of a £15bn mega-merger.

Insurance giants in £15bn merger

UN rift over Iraq agreement FRANCE is expected to resist efforts by Britain and the US to warn to Saddam Hussein that any violation of the memorandum's provisions would result in almost instantaneous

Schroder on course to challenge Kohl GERHARD SCHRÖDER, the most popular opposition politi-

Archers star designs his own death

removed information from concerted attacks.

Hamre, the deputy secretary of but he admitted he did not know

ers had penetrated and had been behind the apparently

of Thomas Hardy about the Archers last night, writes Paul McCann. John Archer had given up his wild ways - by Archers increasingly frequency. standards - to propose to his loved one Hayley. A happy ending looked in the offing. And then it was John himself who was offed by a tractor.

Being a member of the Archer family itself is usually a safe bet. They are, after all, the franchise, and the last one to go to the green room in the sky was Dan Archer in 1986.

A young soap actor should of therapy trying to sort out his

Sam Barriscale, 23, the ac-

know yet."

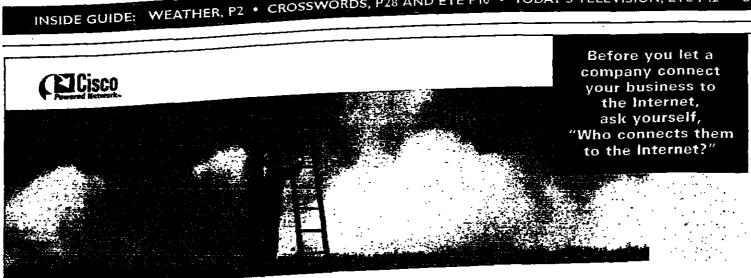
THERE WAS a distinct whiff fictional character from his typecast self. Not so now. The Archers' four million listeners demand drama and death at an

> tor who played John Archer, at least had the luxury of requesting his own demise. There have been lots of ominous quotes like have you repaired that tractor yet?"," he said yesterday. "But no one has guessed. Even my mum doesn't

The death scene was recorded on 2 February, since when



cian in Germany, was last night close to winning the Social Be careful with those fingernalis: a model at last night's Tristan Webber show for Democrat Party's nomination for Chancellor. be able to look forward to years the scripts were shredded. Photograph: Peter Macdiarmid London Fashion Week Latest victim, page 16 INSIDE GUIDE: WEATHER, P2 • CROSSWORDS, P28 AND EYE P10 • TODAY'S TELEVISION, EYE P12 • SPORT, P25-P28 • COMMENT, P18-P19 • LETTERS, P18 • FULL CONTENTS, P2



If the answer is Cisco, your network service provider uses products and technology responsible everything to meet your networking needs. for bringing the luterner to business: In fact, today's Internet is built on Cisco equipment.

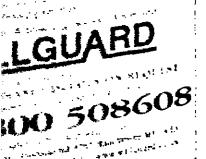
Whether it's Internet access, ATM, frame relay or other data services, Cisco Powered Network" service providers showing the Cisco Powered

Network mark are equipped to support you with

Look for the Cisco Powered Network mark or visit our Web site at www. cisco.com to find

out more about participating network





may join Vialli

NG DAMP? ENSATION?

gr with wall glard

28 pages

of film &

music

From the streets of Paris to

Hollywood

acclaim, Djimon

Hounsou,

Spielberg's

Amistad superstar

■ Lemmy of

Motorhead, a

nutter or what ...

Cornershop:

from nowhere

to No I

CONTENTS

Foreign

Leader & letters

Crosswords 28, The Eye 10 TV & radio The Eye 11 & 12

Unit Trusts

- 1

1 -2-

Scut torced

Seven countries - Britain.

Vaccine that makes jabs obsolete volume skin. merrialbasistic metrialbasistic.

VACCINATIONS of the future could consist of having a liquid rubbed into your skin, rather than the pain of a needle prick - and all because of cholera.

US army scientists have discovered that the toxin produced by the choiera bacterium

and that it speeds up immune 10 years. responses to any other foreign protein added to it.

theria and tetanus.

If all goes well the needle-free. DC. stimulates an immune response system could be available com-

"We can take an off-theshelf vaccine, mix it with cholera Tests on laboratory mice toxin and get a very nice imhave confirmed cholera's ef- mune response from that offfectiveness in helping the body . the-shelf type vaccine," said to generate antibodies to diph. Dr Gregory Glenn, of the department of biochemistry at can be prohibitive. Trials on humans are due to the Walter Reed Army Institute start at the end of next month. of Research, in Washington

The army scientists' work is reported today in the science

journal Nature. The method could revolutionise vaccination programmes in developing countries, where the cost of needles for injections

The idea of using a potentially dangerous disease to produce medical benefits - the

such as gene therapy.

Some scientists have sugested using a weakened form of HIV, the virus that causes Aids, to carry out gene therapy for genetic diseases such as

cystic fibrosis. Because HIV adds its own genetic material to the host, it could act as the carrier for helpful genes - such as those to cure cystic fibrosis. However,

Cholera is a more promising candidate for pain-free immunisation. Though widely feared as a disease, its real danger lies in its dehydrating effects.

When consumed (usually through infected water), the bacteria produce a toxin which inflames the gut and leads to diarrhoea and vomiting. The rapid fluid loss can seriously

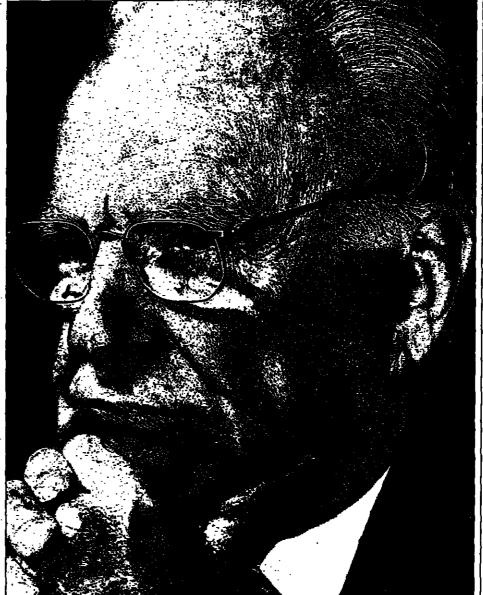
uncontaminated sources, the immune system can usually overcome the infection.

In that sense, the cholera toxin is not deadly - instead, the principal risk arises from its side-effects.

Thus it makes an ideal candidate as an "adjuvant" for helping provoke an immune



Caught in the middle: Stuart Proffitt, head of HarperCollins, (above) tried to protect the memoirs of Chris Patten (left) from being censored by Harper owner Rupert



Publisher who fell prey to Murdoch's Asian powerplay

many to be one of the last gentlemen in the world of

Collins, the publishers where he was employed until yesterday, he worked on many high-profile publications, including the autobiography of Margaret Thatcher. It was natural he would be working on a title such as East and West, the memoirs of Chris Patten as the last Gov-

ernor of Hong Kong. Some might mistake his

Stuart Proffit is thought by Patten book row shows tycoon's Eastern promise, reports Andrew Buncombe

careful, precise manner for understood his departure is his authors. The row resulted in departure underlies what is

all others: he is principled. Yesterday staff at Harper-Collins, the publishing house owned by Rupert Murdoch, were informed that Mr Proffitt company. The termination of his employment was "with immediate effect".

Mr Proffitt was last night not

Erudite, hardworking, a lit- those of a prima donna, but linked to his efforts to defend Mr Proffint's suspension and for considered by observers to be tle professorial perhaps. He those who know Mr Proffitt say his much-valued principles. the last two weeks his legal rep- an ongoing struggle by Mr Mur-

> week that senior executives had instructed Mr Proffitt to alter sections of the book - or have Mr Patten rewrite those sections -watering down criticism of the was no longer employed by the Chinese authorities. It was reported that the senior executives were in turn given their orders by their boss, Mr Murdoch.

> Mr Proffitt reacted furiously available for comment but it is to this attempt to censor one of

he has one characteristic above
It was reported earlier this resentatives have been in discussion with HarperCollins.

They have clearly not been able to reach an agreement and now he has gone," said a source at the company.

It is not known whether he was sacked or he resigned. Last night no one at HarperCollins was available for comment.

And there the story might end. Except that Mr Proffitt's

authorities.

In 1994 he stopped the BBC, considered to be antagonistic towards Peking, from broadcasting on his Star TV satellite channel, a move strongly criticised by Mr Patten. Mr Murdoch even started broadcasting more Chinese language programmes and set up a Chinese

Books, a division of Harper-Collins, published a sugary biography of Deng Xiaoping by his youngest daughter. Murdoch staged a huge promotional effort for the book. He said that Star TV might one day "be a bonanza".

Mr Patten, who has had more experience of the Chinese authorities than most, claims he is more interested in having his own, non-censored words published - than making a bonanza. He said: "I am adamant that my book will be read as I intended it to be read. It is going music channel. In 1994, Basic to be quite a story."

Minister attacks **EU** plan on BSE

By Katherine Butler in Brussels

EU plans to postpone the extension of stringent anti-BSE controls to other parts of Europe, exempting up to eight countries, could put consumers at risk, the Government warned vesterday.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food said agriculture minister Jack Cunningham had misgivings about European Commission proposals to delay full implementation of a ban on offal, bone and other risky parts of cows and sheep until January 1999.

Even more worrying as far as Britain is concerned, is that up to eight countries could be officially whitelisted for BSE risk and so exempted fully from the obligation to ban animal parts which pose most danger. Those who apply for exemption will not have to take any new precautions before January.

Ireland, France, The Netherlands, Belgium, Luxembourg and Portugal - face blacklisting as official BSE risk zones under the plan. They will have to start complying with the rules on offal removal by 1 July. Countries which have not had a "native" BSE case stand a good chance of being certified in the "low" or "negligible"

risk category.
The proposals, which could cause chaos for consumers, will be widely seen as a huge concession to the Germans. Bonn has always insisted it does not (3 need British slaughtering regulations because it has recorded no indigenous cases and the cost of upgrading German abattoirs would be out of all proportion to the risk.

INDEPENDENT INDEPENDENT



Higher Education

Lifelong Learning The Role for Universities

Thursday 5 March 1998 • Central London

The Government is due to publish a series of White Papers on Lifelone Learning in early 1998, from the DIEE, Scottish and Welsh Offices, This one menting the Government's proposals. Universities already play a significant role in lifelong learning, providing courses at all levels - HND, White Papers affect this role! In particular what changes will be needed in education generally develop to interface and partnership with further

The conference is for senior managers in higher and further education, academics, careers advisers and training and personnel officers in business and funding organisations

Professor Bob Fryer, Principal, Northern College (Lifelong Learning Advisory Group)

Dr Geraldine Kenney-Wallace, MD and VC, British Aerospace Virtual University Delegate Fees

Full Rate: Commercial, Central Government £240+VAT (£42.00) Total £282.00 Reduced Rate Universities, Local Authorities (185+VAT (232.38) Total (237.38) Supported Rate Voluntary Organisations, Changes (290+VAT (422,75) Total 452.75

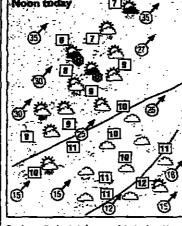
for further information and booking forms please contact:

Neil Stewart Associates

11 Dartmouth Street |

tel 0171-222 1280 fax 0171-222 1278

WEATHER



South-east England will have a mainly dry day with a few surny spells, although drizzle is possible towards evening. Wales and the rest of England will be mostly even in . was and the last of criganto who be musay cloudy with a band of light rain spreading south-eastwards. However, much of Wales and northern England will become a fol brighter in the atternoon. Scotland and Northern Island will be windy with early rain followed by sunshine and showers. The showers will be mostly in the north-west where they will burn writry as it begins to burn a lot colder.

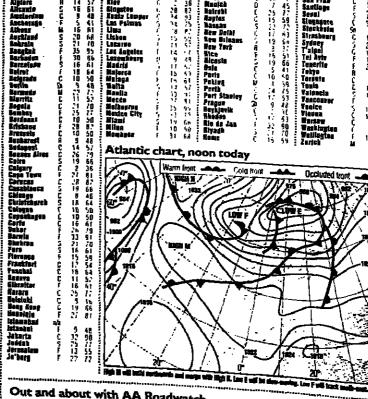
Outlook for the next few days Torrioriow will be a blustery day across most of the LIK with summy spells and showers. Most of the showers will be in the north and west at first but they will break out in the south and east by the alternoon. It will be colder everywhere with show over northern high round and at some low levels an northern Scotland. The weekend will be very cold and wintry with substantial snow in the north, but even southern Britain

F 11 52 Guerusey C 9 48 Ipswich C 10 50 1 of Schly F 11 52 Loaden F 12 54 C 12 54 Manchester C 11 52 Newcastle F 10 50 C 8 46 Oxford C 9:48 Senthampton F 13:55 Ediaberah C 9 48 Southend C 10 50 F 11 52 Sternoway Sh & 46 C 10 50 Exeter Gjasgaw Air quality Yesteriny's medi

London S England Wales C England N England Scotland N tretand Profesik for today Wates C England N England Scottand N Ireland Sun & moon

INDEPENDENT Weatherline
For the latest forecast, dial 0891 5009 tolkned by the two
digits for your area indicated by the above map

High tides 13:42 23:16 19:14 18:07 12:24 23:33 London Enerpool Asonmouth Hulf (Albert Dock) Lighting-up times Bellast Britangham Bristol Glasgow Lordon Manchecter Newcastile



Out and about with AA Roadwatch Call **Q336 401777** for the lattest focal and malitonal traffic news. Source: The Automobile Academation. Calls changed at 50p per

WILLIAM **HARTSTON** WEATHER WISE

IF THE forecasters are right which they are more than 75 per cent of the time - the spring in our weather is about to lose all its bounce. An Arctic blast from Greenland, they say, is going to bring about a drop in temperature of as much as 10 days, bringing snow and sleet to

much of the country. Under such conditions, anyone with a scientific approach to life will head immediately to the formulae for calculating

is what makes you feel colder which we come into contact. than it really is.

In still, cold air, the human body will heat the air around it creating a sort of duvet of warm air that insulates us. If we don't move, or if we wear heavy clothing to trap it, this duvet will degrees over the next couple of greatly slow down the chilling effect of the cold air on our bodies. In windy conditions, however, our duvet is constantly being blown away and we lose energy (so get cold) through the constant need to create new duSo the first thing to do when

you go out in the cold is to decide which of the various formulae to use for calculating the wind-chill. There are two principal ones on offer. The simpler is: $H=(0.14+0.47\sqrt{v})(36.5-T)$ where H is the calories lost per second by each square centimetre of exposed skin, v is the wind speed in metres per second and T is the temperature in degrees Celsius. The final term, 36.5-T represents the difference three-significant-figures accu-

(T) and dry skin (36.5). If you are fussier, or have

clammy hands, you may prefer the alternative formula: $H=(10.45+10\sqrt{v-v})(33-T)$ Both formulae appear to

ments in the Antarctic with thermometers, rather than with human beings in windswept Wimbledon, Since neither takes midity of the air, or the sweatiness of the human, the

For all practical purposes, a good enough guide to wind chill is obtained by subtracting one from the temperature in degrees Celsius, then taking away the have been the result of experiwind speed in metres per second. launched a special El Niño relief appeal to raise £500,000 to enable workers already engaged in relief operations particularly in into account the relative hu- Penu, Papua New Guinea and Somalia. 10 expand their efforts to allow emergency relief from the

Co-ordinated pair with the finest taste in decoration

IN THE NEWS

LORD AND LADY IRVINE

"If thought appropriate, Lady Irvine would be actually approved the lavish £650,000 redechappy to assist." Lord Irvine of Lairg wrote oration of his Westminster apartments. The in a letter to Black Rod on 1 July last year.

He was referring to prospective tours of his newly renovated residence at which those with "a bona fide interest in historic buildings and art" would have an opportunity to look at the more than 100 works of art which he plans to borrow from the nation's galleries.

And Lady Irvine would apparently be happy to act as tour guide, something for which she is highly qualified, as the Lord Chancellor himself pointed out: "She is an MA in the

MR AND MRS

Lady Irvine is of course the former Mrs Donald Dewar and left her husband in the early Seventies for the then up-and-coming lawyer Derry Irvine. What is less well known is that Irvine himself was also married at the time their affair began. He had married Margaret Veitch in 1962 when he was 22 and she was 23. In 1970, when Irvine stood as a Labour candidate at Hendon North, it was Margaret who appeared at his side. When she divorced her husband in 1974, the co-respondent was Alison Dewar. It has been said that Irvine and Dewar didn't speak to each other again until 1994. when both were pallbearers at the funeral of John Smith. Irvine, however, has said that the two of them maintained a cordial relationship, especially as the two Dewar children were raised in his home, "Donald and I have met over the years on many occasions and had conversations perfectly harmoniously in the interests of the children," he said last year.

History of Art from the Courtauld Institute in London."

The Black Rod Letter, as we might call it. dence. It was proof that Lord Irvine had in with a view to borrowing their works of art more than a month before the House of Lords had

new fixtures and fittings are famously to include handmade wallpaper at £300 a roll, silk curtains at £20,000 and a £3,000 Pugin-style lavatory which critics have dubbed "Lord Irvine's Throne". Such is the level of media interest in the renovations that a 24-hour security guard has now been placed on the apartments. This follows a complaint from one of the contractors that a journalist offered him a bribe to gain access.

"Lady Irvine and I have had a lifetime's interest in fine art," Lord Irvine wrote in his letter, and there is general agreement that his wife would have influenced his choice of artworks. And why not? Home-makers everywhere will be familiar with such a scenario, although perhaps not on such a grand scale. ("I know you like the Augustus John, darling, but I really do prefer the Landseer." "But darling, we've already got three Landseers. What about a Piranesi?")

The couple are known to fit their European holidays round the major art exhibitions and are keen collectors. "I envy the Medicis their taste and the sensible use of their great wealth in accumulating these treasures," Lord Irvine told The Independent last April. His own great wealth, earned as one of London's most successful commercial QCs, has been put to use buying the impressive collections to be found at the Irvine home in West Hampstead and their rural retreat in Argyllshire. Paintings by Sickert, Stanley Spencer, Sir Matthew Smith and Paul Nash adorn the walls, as well as a considerable number of works by Scottish artists. One dealer has commented that the couple "always drive a hard bargain". Lady Irvine is said to sell many of the paintings they acquire, constantly refining the collection. As well as her MA, which she took as a mature student 10 years ago, she has a degree in art emerged vesterday and provided yet another from Glasgow University. The couple make new twist in the long-running farce entitled The "a fantastic team", according to an art-deal-Refurbishment of the Lord Chancellor's Res- er friend. "He is very intuitive, the way he asesses nictures. Alison is both intuitive at fact approached museum and gallery curators trained. But he always buys within his means."



WHO WAS PUGIN?

The name of Pugin has become inextricably linked with that of Lord Irvine. Pugin was the architect who oversaw the rebuilding of the Palace of Westminster after a fire in the mid-19th century and the Lord Chancellor's apartments are being restored in his original style. Born in 1812, Pugin equated good design with high moral standards and led a campaign for the Gothic style, which he considered to be an expression of a just and Christian society in contrast to the social ills of 19th-century industrialism. He was mainly responsible for the Victorian Gothic Revival and was a considerable influence on John Ruskin.

THE MAN LEFT BEHIND "He has never got over losing his

children, it was a terrible blow," a close friend says of Donald Dewar, who was left behind in Glasgow with only his books for company when his wife took their two children and went off with the then Derry Irvine in the early Seventies. Dewar has never remarried and is generally regarded as something of a lonely figure. He never goes on holiday. "If

you haven't got anyone to go on holiday with, what's the point in going?" he sai recently, somewhat poignantly. He has been known to refuse dinne

invitations on Christmas Day, preferring to stay at home with a good book and a plate of fish fingers. Such behaviour tends to bring out a mothering instinct in women. "They worry about him eating properly and remembering to get his hair cut," says a female friend.

THE FIRST WIFE

Margaret Irvine moved to Canada in 1976. She lives alone in a hamlet 40 miles from Toronto, where she teaches children with special educational needs. Still bitter about the break-up of her marriage, she said recently, "I haven't spoken to my exhusband since I left Britain. I've cut all that out of my life. I had to put him behind me. After the way he behaved, I wouldn't want to stay in touch with him. lt still upsets me."

SOME FASCINATING FACTS Lord Irvine is the Government's top earner, with a salary of £142,508, Blair. Twenty years ago, he became the country's youngest QC at the

Waterstone wins his books empire back

Ву Раці МсСалп Media Correspondent

THE MAN who revolutionised Britain's book stores was back in charge of his Waterstone's chain yesterday after a longforecast three-way £500m deal also put Dillons and HMV record shops into his control. Tim Waterstone, who start-

ed book selling with a £10,000 lyan from his father-in-law, has formed a joint venture with electronics and leisure giant EMI and bought his old Waterstone's chain back from WH Smith. He sold 31 Waterstone's stores in 1989 for £42m - a deal which netted him a £9m profit. As chairman of the new company, HMV Media, he will

now control 106 Waterstone's shops which last year made a £20m profit on a £200m turnover. He will also try to apply his touch to the HMV music stores and Dillons book shops which come with the EMI part of the deal.

Electronics and recording giant EMI has been trying to pull out of retailing for some time to concentrate on the recording in-



he left his boss told him: "I sup-

pose we'd prefer it if you didn't

open a chain of book shops."

dancy money to open book

shops that were much bigger

than any seen in Britain before.

They had a spacious feel that en-

couraged customers to linger

and come back. His was one of

the archetypal Eighties entre-

preneurial success stories, but

unlike the founders of Next and

the Sock Shop the bubble did

In fact, he used his redun-

dustry. It has now effectively ceded control to Waterstone and his private company, Advent.

The new company will compete with WH Smith as one of the country's biggest book and record retailers. The irony is that so much of Mr Waterstone's career has been intertwined with the WH Smith empire. He joined WH Smith in 1973 and was fired in 1981 after he set up an American op-

not burst and he sold a heavily indebted chain to WH Smith just before interest rates rose. Last year, he founded a children's store, the Daisy and Tom children's shop in Kensington, west London, which he plans to float on the stock market. In keeping with the book shops, the children's venture is named after his three-year-old daughter

> In a fiendishly complex deal, EMI bought Waterstone's from WH Smith for £300m then sold it, its 78 Dillons stores and 271 HMV stores to the joint venture it created with Tim Waterstone for £500m. The City welcomed the deal by marking up EMI shares by 15p and WH Smith shares by 5p after the news broke, EMI said there would only be a small number of book shop closures because of the merger; regulatory approval will be needed for the deal to go through.

and his business partner's son.

The Dillons stores that form the deal are likely to be re-branded as Waterstone's and the whole company will be floated on the stock exchange in a few years.

'Rival bid' for Waterstone page 20

Join today and claim your free £5 Marks & Spencer gift voucher

How's this for speed? On average, Green Flag reach you in just 35 minutes! In fact we're so confident of our service that if we don't reach you within the hour, you can claim £10 back.

How's this for cost? Cover starts from only £29.50⁺⁺ per annum, and if you join today we'll give you a free M&S gift voucher worth £5.

That's faster and cheaper than the AA and RAC. They can't beat us, So join us.

POST TODAY - NO STAMP NEEDED NAME [MR/MRS/MISS/MS] http://www.greenflag.co.uk

Green Flag

Motoring Assistance

THIS MONTH OUR

MOTORING ASSISTANCE

COMES WITH A LITTLE

EXTRA HELP

WE LEAVE EVERYONE STANDING BUT YOU

Aggrieved City bankers tell all on net

DISGRUNTLED City bankers have found a new way to complain about the size of their pay cheques. Rather than confide in a colleague or drown their sorrows with a glass of champagne or two. City folk can now open their hearts to the Internet.

Two entrepreneurs from North London have set up a website aimed specifically at 1 .ndon's highly paid banking community. he major draw of the site is a bulletin board where bankers can anonymously post their views about life, the universe, and, most important of all, their bonuses. The site provides a fascinating insight into the surreal world of investment banking.

Take yesterday's top item, "Warburg's insulting bonuses". This detailed City fury at the "derisory" level of bonus paid by SBC

Warburg, a leading investment bank. The bank told staff this week that some payouts would be lower than normal after last year's turmoil in South-East Asia. Many staff will receive bonuses of "only" a couple of thousand of pounds, which prompted bankers to flood the website with complaints.

"There was initially disbelief, followed by anger, and, finally a feeling of having been shabbily treated", say contributors to the website. "Until yesterday I was having sleepless nights trying to decide whether I would buy a BMW Z3 or a Porsche Boxter with my bonus. Now I'm off out to buy, just plain fed up. "If I go and look for a a mountain bike", complained one Warburg new job now, my bonus will be effectively employee. "Might as well work at Mcbanker advocated direct action: "Banks are old UBS are going to be less well-paid than trying to break the high-paying culture in our counterparts at Warburgs", moaned anthe industry and this is just the start. The other.

only way to counter it is to show Warburgs how destructive it is by large numbers of us leaving as soon as the bonuses are paid".

The site is not only used by bankers peeved by the size of their pay cheques. It has also provided comfort to employees at UBS, a top City bank, which recently announced it was going to make hundreds, if not thousands, of staff redundant following a merger with SBC Warburg. The bulletin board is plastered with comments from UBS staff who are concerned about their future, concerned about their pay, or cancelled", complained one member of Donald's", added another. Yet another staff, "I think those of us coming from the

Allow right to roam or else. landowners told

By Nicholas Schoon

Environment Correspondent

EVERYONE will gain the right to roam over the open countryside of England and Wales. the Government said yesterday. If rural landowners do not come up with credible proposals to allow access to ramblers, might be some funding for car then ministers will introduce parks and marking paths. legislation to compel them.

A long-awaited consultation paper says the right to roam will cover nearly 5,000 square miles of mountain, moor, heath. down and open commons - preferred staying on a footpath. about a tenth of the land area of England and Wales.

the National Farmers' Union. the Country Landowners' As- a right to enjoy the wonderful sociation and the Moorland Association a three-month consultation period in which to come up with voluntary proposals for opening up their estates to the public with a network of new paths and free-to-roam areas.

It will then weigh these plans up, and if what is on offer does not go far enough, then new access laws would be drawn up, said Environment Minister

0800 192 192

jectives are non-negotiable," he told a press conference. The major landowner organisations would have to give guarantees on the quantity, quality and permanence of the new access they were allowing to ramblers. They would not be paid any compensation, although there

But Mr Meacher insisted he wanted people to be able to wander freely across open landscapes, even if most people

"The countryside is wonderfully refreshing and reviving The Government has given to the spirit," he said. In a small, crowded island "people do have legacy of our countryside, provided they do so responsibly."

The document does not cover Scotland, which has different trespass and access laws and where there is a traditional right to roam - although ramblers fear it is being eroded.

People south of the border will not be given the right to roam through crop fields, woods and enclosed grazing meadows. The Government has

Michael Meacher. "Our ob- . also not yet decided whether they will be allowed to take their dogs with them

Yesterday, Mr Meacher was doubtful on whether any voluntary agreement could be adequate. He said he had visited Ranmore Common near Dorking, Surrey, at the weekend where a landowner had recently revoked a right to roam which dated back to 1929. Warning notices have gone up.

"That's a challenge for those groups arguing for the voluntary way," he said. He questioned how the Country Landowners' Association could ensure all its members complied with any

But the Association was delighted with yesterday's document. "We're really glad they included the voluntary option, and we're confident our members can deliver," said spokeswoman Anne Marshall.

Kate Ashbrook, chair of the 122,000 member Ramblers' Association, was also encouraged but said legislation to enforce the right to roam was essential. "The landowners are bound to say they can deliver voluntarily; we're quite clear that they can't."



Sign of the times: Stephen Goodwin crossing the moors on the Duke of Westminster's Abbeystead Estate in Lancashire

How I trespassed on the duke's forbidden moors

By Stephen Goodwin Heritage Correspondent

ROTTEN HILL and Johnny Pye's Clough Top are windblown features on a vast tract of heather moorland one of the richest men in Britain wants to

keep strictly private. They are not the most shapely of hills and it is hardly likely that ramblers' boots will erode scars across them even if

a "right to roam" is granted. Yet the fell tops beckoned.

As the Government was unveiling its cautious approach to achieving public access to some four million acres. The Independent was advance testing the right to roam in the Forest of Bowland in Lancashire, Despite its name, this is open moorland,

home of grouse and birds of prey. We chose Bowland, and specifically the Abbeystead Es-

tate of the Duke of Westminster, because it has been a classic example of "forbidden Britain" for . side of the estate, following a vedecades. Tom Stephenson, the hicle track before crossing the father of the Pennine Way who moor towards Johnny Pye's. Intimidation rather than died 10 years ago, spent most of

of access in Bowland. No bailiffs appeared as we walked the moors. We reached Grizedale Head and descended to Abbeystead on a private track beautifully maintained for the

his life angry about the denial

comfort of grouse shooting parties. Then we sampled the south

confrontation seems to be the way of Gerald Cavendish Grosvenor, the sixth duke. I know of no part of upland Britain where the "Private"

signs are so thick on the ground. The 46-year old duke has remains barred.

bankrolled the Countryside & Movement, set up to defend hunting and country sports and to oppose a right to roam, to the tune of £1.3m. The public has gained a boothold on the estate: the duke's predecessor allowed an access strip along the highest ridge over Clougha Pike and Ward's Stone and this duke has added a little more. But at least 90 per cent of the estate

Two hurt in bomb blast

TWO postal workers were

injured yesterday when a letter-bomb exploded in Belfast's main Royal Mail

Another two were treat-

ed for shock after a package

went off in the returned mail

The two injured men

sorting office.





MI5 has stopped spying on political groups, says Straw By Fran Abrams tional security from actions in-Political Correspondent tended to overthrow or under-MI5 HAS reduced its activities industrial or violent means." against subversive political groups to a mere "monitoring" operation since the end of the Cold War, the Home Secretary, subversive groups. That was

Jack Straw, said yesterday. Mr Straw also promised

more openness about the secuntv services, and an announcement before the summer on how which the service actually dethey might be opened up to greater public scrutiny.

In a Commons debate, he also said he would never allow a minister or MP to demand a Mandelson, the Minister Without Portfolio, wanted records of munist League removed from the archives.

Mr Straw also suggested that security vetting of ministers of old information from the would no longer be "live" and would not routinely be consult-National Union of Students be-Social Security Secretary Harriet Harman when she worked for the National Council for Civil Liberties in the 1980s.

Responding to questions from Julian Lewis, the Conservative MP for New Forest East, Mr Straw said the security services had a duty to "protect na-

THE beleaguered Lord Chan-

cellor is expected to signal a sig-

nificant retreat on changes to

legal aid when he publishes a

consultative paper next week,

Lord Irvine of Lairg was due

to have published his proposals

yesterday, but they were held

back because they would have

clashed with announcements

on access to the countryside and

It had been expected that

Lord Irvine would propose the

abolition of legal aid for all civ-

il damage claims, effectively abolishing legal aid and

replacing it with a "no-win,

But Labour sources believe

that controversial plan has been

watered down, with no-win,

no-fee restricted initially to

personal injury claims – with a

view to seeing how that worked.

minster as a device to shelve and

That was being seen at West-

lifelong learning.

no-fee" system.

writes Anthony Bevins.

mine democracy by political,

racy is not currently threatened by the activities of not always the case, and it was particularly not the case during the Cold War.

The limited resources votes to counter subversion are focused on monitoring so it would be able to respond if a

Although the nature of the file on him be destroyed. There security services' work required had been reports that Peter protection from "the full glare of publicity," he planned to look at ways of opening them up his activities in the Young Com- a little. For example, MPs might be told how many files on individuals were currently "live."

larly for ministers," he said.

quietly bury the more radical

proposals initially favoured by

the Lord Chancellor. "It means

goodbye to all that," said one

mind of Lord Irvine's critics that

his recent problems over his

Whitehall "empire building"; his clashes with other departmen-

tal ministers, like Jack Straw, the

Home Secretary; and the

adverse publicity he has been

getting over the redecoration of

his official residence, have all weakened his bargaining hand

"Derry does not want a great fight on his hands at this time,"

"He does not want to be por-

traved as the man who took

legal aid away from poor peo-

ple, spending it all on his wall-

paper will also include propos-

als to accelerate civil actions.

Lord Irvine's consultation

paper instead."

over legal aid reform.

said one friend last night.

There will be no doubt in the

Labour source.

Retreat on changes

to legal aid scheme

department in the Tomb "Our Parliamentary democ-Street premises half a mile from the city centre.

threat should emerge," he said.

Since 1992, files no longer needed had been destroyed as would not have led to disclosure resources allowed. This process had been speeded up recently Cold War period because it but there was no question of allowing ministers to ask for their files to be shredded. "It would ed. A file was held on him be very wrong to do so in respect when he was president of the of private individuals, it would be even more wrong to do so at the tween 1969 and 1971, and on the behest of honourable or right honourable members and particu-

> Mr Lewis had complained that the destruction of files might deprive historians of material, for example relating to Nazi sympathiser groups in Britain around the time of the Second World War.

were not believed to have been seriously hurt by what police called a small explosion. One took the main

torce of the clast as he ha dled it. He was injured in the chest and arm.

Estate sues

A multi-million pound action for damages is to be launched over the death of Chelsea Football Club's vicechairman, Matthew Harding, in a helicopter crash.

The civil action for compensation was announced within minutes of an inquest jury returning a verdict of accidental death on Mr Harding, 42, and four other men who died in the when the helicopter crashed on farmland in Cheshire.

David Cooper, a lawyer who represents Mr Harding's estate, said that claims would be made against a 75 number of unnamed parties.

Royal return

PRINCESS Margaret was due to arrive home today from Barbados where she has been having tests after suffering a stroke on Monday.

A Buckingham Palace spokesman said the Princess was continuing to make "steady progress" following the mild stroke which struck while she was holidaying with friends on the vacation island of Mustique.

Radio waves

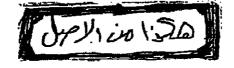
THE man who revaraped Radio 1 by sacking old DJs and first bringing in and then losing Chris Evans is giving up day-to-day control of the station. Matthew Bannister remains in overall controller of the BBC's national radio stations, but his Radio 1 deputy, Andy Parfitt, is to become controller of the network.

Homes soar

THE strength of the housing market in 1997 was revealed in figures from the Land Registry which showed that prices in the autumn 9 nine per cent up on 1996.

SHOPPING HOURS: Sun 11-5, Mon 10-8, Tues 10-6, Wed 10-6, Thurs 10-8, Fri 10-8, Sat 9-6. Northern Ireland: Sun 1-6, Mon 10-6, Tues 10-6, Wed 10-9, Thurs 10-9, Fri 10-9, Sat 9-6.







Two hurt in

bomb blast

Estate sues

Royal return

Homes soar

raw

Forget the MCC: the women's clubs that really are exclusive

By Kate Watson-Smyth

IT WAS a decision that surprised no one Cricket Club has voted to exclude them.

Despite the fact that members voted in favour of changing the rule, the 55.7 per cent vote fell short of the two-thirds majority required and the han will stay - at least for the time being.

But do women care? The number of organisations for them has mushroomed in recent years and women in almost every field can join their own exclusive clubs.

They can do their own networking man without having to feel excluded from whispered conversations over a glass of port in the old boys' club and most are agreed that they have no desire to join a group of men friendly. in a fusty oak-panelled room for idle conversation.

Linda Christmas, deputy chair of Women in Journalism, said women in friendly and approachable. many professions had felt the need to set up their own clubs to combat inequality in the workplace but once the organisation was up and running, women were much better at achieving their aims than men.

"The perception of men's clubs is rather purposeful.

inns tend to be younger and more view she said.

"It can be very frustrating to keep - least of all the women. For the second banging your head against the wall trying time in its 211-year history, the Marylebone to get anywhere in the old boys' club and ultimately it is a waste of energy. "But when women get together they are

much more efficient than men who tend to sit and talk about things and then expect some mythical person to go and do it all. "In a women's club they will decide what

they want to achieve and go out and do it. Women are far more inclusive." This is a view echoed by the Secretary of the University Women's Club, who is a

John Robson, who has run the club for almost five years but is not a member and

"Years ago I ran a men's club and it was very different," he said.

"The members here are much more

"There is also a lot more going on than in the average men's club where they might have one game of backgammon a year and spend the rest of the time fermenting in the bar. There is no doubt that women are more



has no rights, said women were much more Exclusive retreat: Elizabeth Parsons, a former chairwoman, relaxing at the University Women's Club in Mayfair, central London

events and the committee is working to encourage young people in music and paint-

"But they use the club to network as well

Jo Darbyshire, president of the Sorop-

"Although our club is a retreat and timists, a philanthropic organisation for prowe like members to think of it as fessional women, said the organisation was their London home, we also organise used not only to network but also for so-

> Our members meet twice a month and there is a lot of networking but I feel it is much purer than when a group of men get together in a club," she said.

"Women are much more capable of sup-

porting each other than men and l think they work together for the good of everyone and not just for personal

But Ylva French, the managing director of Women in Communications, which operates as an umbrella organisation for several women's clubs, said it was proof of the continuing inequality that such organ- to have a good time."

isations were needed. "There is still a need for solidarity among women and that is why there are so many clubs," she

They were set up as a reaction against the number of men's clubs but also because women wanted to achieve something while having a good time and the men just want

How employers can help mothers

By Glenda Cooper Social Affairs Correspondent

WOMEN say they would be more likely to take up full-time work if employers paid for part of their childcare costs, according to a new MORI poll due to be published today.

Almost half of women polled but particularly young women from low income families said they would be encouraged to swap part-time for full-time work if they were given help.

The poll conducted for the Kids' Club Network and Childcare Vouchers Ltd (CCV) also said that the main benefits to employers would be lower absenteeism and increased loyalty to their work.

Last week, The Independent launched its campaign for tax allowances for working women urging the Chancellor to invest in the future by making quality childcare more affordable.

The MORI poll of 445 women found that at the moment relatives or friends are the main providers of both out-ofschool care and childcare during working hours. Childminders are used predominantly by professional full-time workers in the south of England. Around one in ten women use

nurseries, while a tiny minority (4 per cent) have access to after-school clubs. Only a quarter of working women have taken annual leave

with children during school bolidays and one in seven pay childminders during the holidays. Nearly a third of women said

CHILDCARE

that they would have increased loyalty towards their employees if they were given help - with the feeling being greatest among full-time middle-class working women with high incomes. One in ten women said that help would attract and retain high-calibre female staff.

Today, the CCV and Kids' Club Network will launch a voucher scheme, an initiative which enables employers to contribute directly to working holidays. This type of scheme is parents' out-of-school childcare an absolute necessity not only for and holiday childcare costs. The the increasing number of work-"School's Out Voucher" aims to ing families but also for the overcover around 50 per cent of av- all success of UK plc." to be at home or go on holiday

erage costs. The employer would pass the voucher on to their employee who would be able to redeem it at a KCN club.

The launch will be attended by Alan Howarth, the minister with responsibility for co-orditional childcare strategy.

The MORI/CCV research

shows the Government's commitment to increase the number of out of school places is on the right track," said Suc Harvey, managing director of CCV. "Importantly it also highlights the fact that those families most likely to benefit from the extra places - families who are unable to pay childminders or nannies - will not be able to take them up as they cannot afford the costs, and rely on the gen-

erosity of relatives and friends." Cary Cooper, professor of organisational psychology at University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology, said: "With two out of every three families now working, families' affordable childcare provision is an absolute necessity to avoid the stresses and strains of balancing the home/work dilemma.

"During school time the problems are minimised but the real pressures occur in the periods before and after school and in particular during the school

"NEC'S DIRECTION SP-333L IS THE FASTEST WINDOWS 95 PERFORMER IN ITS CLASS"

PC MAGAZINE APRIL ISSUE 1998*



• Intel 333MHz Pentium®II Processor

 64MB SDRAM 8.4GB EIDE Ultra ATA Hard Drive

● ATI Xpert@Play 3D AGP Graphics Card with 4MB SGRAM video memory

Chassis (Mini Tower option) ● 17" NEC A700 MultiSync

Monitor (o.28 dot pitch 15.8" viewable) ● 14-32x CD-ROM Drive

• 12 Months Next Business Day On-Site Warranty

£1,549 (£1,854.15 ==)

NEC PCs are designed for business from just £649

NEC Direction SE-200T

 Intel 200MHz Pentium® Processor with MMX™

Technology • 16MB SDRAM 2.1GB EIDE Ultra ATA

Hard Drive Integrated ATI Rage™ II+ Graphics Card with 2MB SGRAM video

Yamaha® 3D Wavetable

(Mini Tower option) • 12 Months Next

CD-ROM

Drive

Desktop Chassis

Business Day On-Site Warranty Microsoft Windows '95

● 15" NEC C550 Colour Monitor (0.28 dot pitch

14.0" viewable) £649

(£796.65 ==)





Supporters rally to the cause

HUNDREDS of people have contacted The Independent to lend their support to the campaign. They include:

Helen Wilkinson, Demos; Sheila Kitzinger, Women's Employment, Enterprise & Training Unit, Norwich: Kamlesh Bahl, Equal Opportunities munity Practitioners' and Health Visnors' Association: John McLaughlin, Northolt; Alison Purver, Leeds: David and Liz Copeman; Mina Blythe, Brisiol; Melissa Slater: Dr Ijeoma F. Uchegbu, University of Strathclyde: Kate Holden; Penelope Overton, St Albans; Magdalena letswaart, Aberdeen: Andrew Smith, Secretary, Scottish Young Liberal Democrats.

Kate Moore; Kate Revee, senior librarian, Guildhall School of Music and Drama; Fiona Talkington: Lyndsey Unwin: Ani Devlia: Sally Wilson: Graham Giles; C Euan Duthic; Amanda Jones, conference producer IBC UK Conferences Lid : Adrian Presion. London: Tessa Younger, Maria Pilar Garcia Pastor, Julie Schwartz Zee Cull Garland International: Ali Hanan. Jo Denbury, Debi Angel, Elle Decox

Fiona Rintoul. London: Sheila Candeland, Manchester Metropolitan Juli3 S Rodgers: Jane McCann; Julie Brennan, University Library Scotland; Rachel O'Neill, PR manager AOL UK: Clare Hall: Jayne Wright: Jane E Ridley, Valery R Costan Dunfermline:



Opportunities Commission

Liz Soward: Sarah and Mark Butt; Andree McNamara: Adrian and Sharon Magnus; Miri Rubin, lecturer Oxford

Charlotte Worker, Kent: Clare McGlyna, Newcastle: Nikki Chapple: Alison Walters, London; Audrey Reimann: Jayne Roscoe, West Sussex, Ylva Player-Dahnsjoe; Nigel Platt, Surrev: Bronwen Pitt: Jacquie Hampton: Susan Antal, London: Deborah Timmermans, V.R. Burdon, Christina Zaba, Bristol: Kate McFarlan; Helen Moore:

Doreca Boddy: Wilma Boisnard, Names, Jan Owen: Felicity Harper, Clevedon; Dr Barbara Miles, retired senior partner, general practice, Bottisham, Cambridge: Dr Grahame Miles, Homerton College, Cambridge (retired senior member); Elizabeth Adams; Jo Blakey. K Ridealgh; Jan and Bob Metcalfe, Romford: Erika Watson, co-ordinator Hall; Helen McGhee. Jimie and Alannah Moore: Andrea

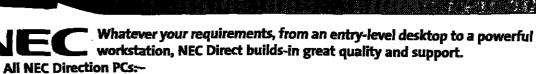
Bradley, Milton Keynes; Dr Anna Wison, chairman Royal College of General Practitioners, Wessex Faculty; Rachel White, Learnington Spa; Alicia Carroll, London; S Peter, Lean Spa; Maureen Sterling, Kiddern ster, H English, Twickenham; Lord Russell; M F Saysell, Bournemouth; G & B Lilley, Stoke-on-Trent, Carolyn Dobson, Malvern; Carol Watkins, Yeovil; Karen Wilde, London.

ndon: Harriet Kimbell, Guildford: tine, London, Ann M Jackson, Neil Jackson, Sheffield; Carol Holmes,

Dr Joan Draper, Coventry, Sally N Mills, Haywards Heath; Sorah Jenkinson Bristol; Anne Longlield, Kids' Club Network, Pre-School Learning Alliance; Sarah Aslan, London; Gillian Ward Surrey; Emms Thorpe, Surrey. E E de Mattos, Tonbridge; Julia Williams, Surrey, Catherine A Hobson, Canterbury, Linda Hancock, Sevenoaks; F Husselbury, Cheshire; Hyacinth Morris; Debine Boote, Nottingham; Yvonne Stevens: Ann Thwaite, Norfolk; Tracey



Jane Bryson, Northumberland; Julie Hawkins, Basingstoke; J Grego-ry, Birmingham; Christina Redmond, Wendy Duthie, Hayle; Allegra Valen-



• come with 12 months next business day on-site warranty • are fully upgradable and built to order

come with a lifetime of telephone technical support

NEC Computer Systems, a Division of Packard Bell NEC (GB) Ltd

The right Direction for your Business

RING NEC DIRECT TODAY 01706 362 811

Aldermaston link to child cancer

By Charles Arthur Science Editor

UNUSUALLY high numbers of childhood leukaemia cases near nuclear establishments such as Harwell and the Aldermaston weapons base dioactive dust particles in the air, an independent scientist has suggested.

This would account for the anomaly between the apparently high numbers of the cancer, and data from monitors, which suggest that radiation levels for the area are below the national average.

European Committee on Radiation Risk, says in a new paper submitted to medical journals that a detailed analysis of incidences of leukaemia cases within the Newbury ward of Berkshire suggests that plutonium particles could be suspended in the air by electrostatic action.

partment of Health is finalising an urgent investigation, due to be published next month, investigating radioactivity levels in the Newbury area. The independent Committee on in Berkshire could be caused by raclaims of leukaemia clusters there. equipment, as it would be earthed.

The worries in the area first surfaced 10 years ago when a local docshowed that the only common factor was proximity to the Aldermarston Aromic Weapons Establishment.

Since then they have been fuelled Dr Chris Busby, acting for the by repeated claims that there was a since 1971 shows that seven key wards nuclear accident at the Greenham Common airbase more than 35 years ago, and that AWE Aldermaston and the Royal Ordnance factory in Burghfield have continually released both liquid and gaseous radioactive pollutants into the atmosphere.

Because radioactive plutonium The suggestion comes as the Departicles tend to become negatively

charged, because they throw off positively-charged particles as they decay, they would be repelled from the ground (which is largely negativelycharged) and driven into the air, which Medical Aspects of Radiation in generally has a positive charge, sugthe Environment (Comare) carried gests Dr Busby. Such particles might also be repelled from monitoring

However, people could still breathe in the particles, which would tor's study of leukaemia incidence then lead to them receiving comparatively high internal doses. Such internal radiation doses are believed to lead to leukaemia in offspring. Dr Busby says that mortality data

> near AWE Aldermaston have had 50 per cent more cases of leukaemia -16 instead of 9 - than national statistics would suggest. However, other scientists have disputed this. The National Radiological Protection Board declined to comment specif-

THERE'S NO BETTER VALUE



the publication of Comare's work. Headhunted: Sarah Grunewald, the City high-flier at the centre of controversy, with her son Max

Superwoman quits - and takes

her men with her

By Louise Jury

An Oxford contemporary of City superwoman Nicola Horlick has become the latest woman to cause a headhunting scandal.

possibly the only woman heading a corporate finance team outside London, was ordered to clear her desk at Nat West Markets last Friday when she announced she was quitting to join rivals Arthur Andersen.

The decision by Mrs Grunewald and her four-man team - who in traditional high finance fashion are going with her - meant NatWest Markets was forced to close its Leeds office and look after its clients from Manchester.

Mrs Grunewald began her career in corporate finance 14 years ago and despite taking time off to have three children, aged one to five, is now reported to earn in the £100,000-a-year bracket. She more than doubled her number of clients during her time at NatWest and took over Zoe, one, after she has departas director of corporate finance ed for work from their home in 16 months ago.

She is now sitting out her contract at home before starting her new job at the end of March, and was refusing to comment yesterday. But, earlier, she told the Daily Mail: take her team to a rival bank.

"People I know have likened me to Nicola Horlick, but I am no

"First and foremost, I am a mother. Combining home and work means I am always tired and always guilty - guilty that Sarah Grunewald, who is you are not giving enough time to everything."

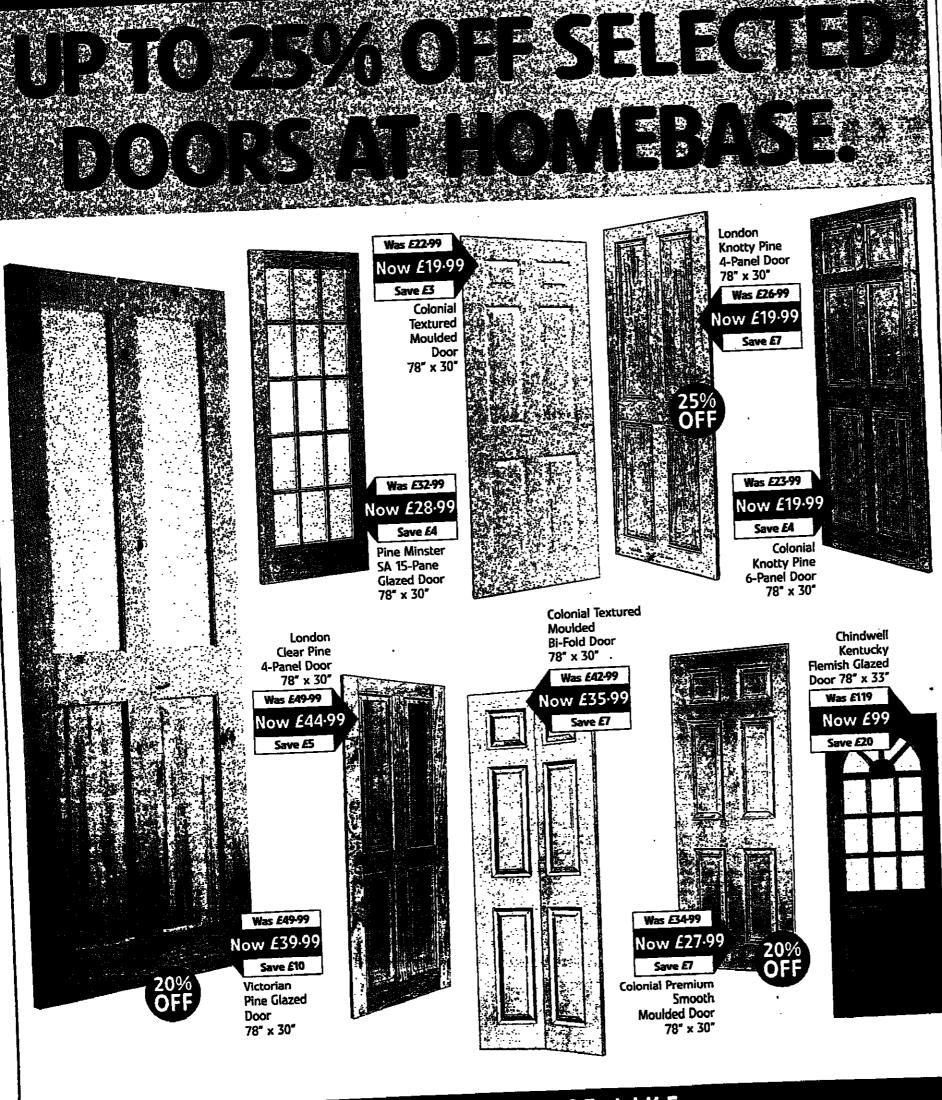
Michael Beverley, her new boss at Arthur Andersen's northern regional office, said: "I don't think there are many women doing what she does. Like Nicola Horlick, she is a very capable lady."

Her work involves advising the management of companies on how to go public and matters such as flotations, takeover hids and rights issues.

But one City insider said few women survived in this market for long because the companies demanded 24-hour-a-day attention which made combining work with family difficult.

Mrs Grunewald's husband, Richard, a consultant neurologist, prepares breakfast for Harriet live, Max, three the Peak District at 6.45am.

Mother-of-five Nicola Horlick was earning £1m a year when, aged 35, she was sacked by Morgan Grenfell because it suspected she was about to



THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE

MONDAY-THURSDAY 8AM -8PM - FRIDAY 8AM -9PM - SATURDAY 8AM -8PM - SUNDAY 10AM -4PM IN UNIDAT - ITUK DUAT DAM - OF IN - FRIDAT DAM - 7 FIN - DAN UNIDAT DAM - OF M - 3 UNIDAT NUMM - 4 FM)

Reaper price, we'll refund the difference. Prices marked include discount Prices valid until 243 98 All sizes are approximate and not to scale. Merchandise subject

Reland and Eire. 15kores in Scotland open Sunday Pom-6pm. Opening times may vary. Please call 0645 801 800 during office hours for details of your nearest store

Ireland and Eire. 15kores in Scotland open Sunday Pom-6pm. Opening times may vary. Please call 0645 801 800 during office hours for details of your nearest store.

SWIFTCALL LOW COST INTERNATIONAL CALLS 18p N. Zealand 27p Germany Pakistan 72p 27p Hong Kong S.Africa 34p India 50p Thailand 72p 10p Ireland UK 5p 20p Japan Call us today for details on fantastic savings to hundreds of other destinations and how to open your pre paid account. 0800 769 0033 Call 1800 794 381 if you live in Ireland. 1800 836 5005 if you live in the USA. BUSINESS These off peak prices are available? days a work. Multinglis. Maint, Descriptes has 1 100 Our service is available to you not as the

National G 'The Dea on CD



woman - and takes en with her

VIFTCALL

18p & Jealand

10 769 ⁰⁰³³

72P

34P

72P

5p

Stars come out for Serpentine relaunch

By David Lister Arts News Editor

STARS attending one of the glitziest nights of the year in the visual arts were told of the importance of the Independent's Save The Arts campaign yesterday.

The re-opening of the renovated Serpentine Gallery in Hyde Park, London, was attended by celebrities ranging from European royalty (the crown princes of Greece and Yugoslavia) to style queens Paloma Picasso, Mary Quant and Zandra Rhodes to comedians Harry Enfield and Jennifer Saunders and rock star Bryan Ferry.

The Serpentine has always been one of the most fashionable as well as one of the most radical of art galleries. Its patrons numbered Diana, Princess of Wales. And its radical nature was highlighted in its reopening exhibition by the Italian artist, the late Piero Manzoni, who offerings included cans of his own excrement and lumps of cotton.

But a focus of last night was our campaign for the Chancelfor to grant tax relief on all contributions to the arts.

In a speech before welcom-



Jones, director of the Serpentine, said: "I am delighted that we have been successful in raising the money we needed. But I also want to support the Independent campaign. Any help that we or organisations like us can have to raise money for the arts is absolutely critical."

The gallery has had a £4m faculift, with National Lottery money paying for three quarters of the work. Ironically, the former tea rooms still lack anywhere for visitors to have a cup of tea or any other refreshments, but Lord Palumbo, chairman of the gallery said this would be rectified in the future.

He added: "There is a wonderful paradox about this building - to find a tea room in a ing her guests, Julia Peyton-royal park and to turn it into a

gallery for contemporary art at the cutting edge is a very curious juxtaposition.

Architect John Miller said it had been difficult to preserve the character of the building but also incorporate new features, including an education studio. "It was a battle we had. It was often quite vigorous," he said.

Among Manzoni's works on show were mounted tufts of cotton and a collection of eggs with the artist's thumbprint upon them, and a series of straight lines which he printed on paper then rolled up and sealed in tubes with labels detailing the exact length of each line. Germano Celant, curator of contemporary art at New York's Guggenheim Museum, chose the pieces which have been included at the gallery.

He said Manzoni formed part of a trinity of artists who depict the body whose work can be seen in London at the moment, along with painter Francis Bacon and the fashion



designer Alexander McQueen. Art in the park: Julia Peyton-Jones, director of the Serpentine Gallery, which reopened yesterday after refurbishment



Warning: Merda d'artista by Manzoni is at the Serpentine

Is it art? Or simply expensive excrement?

THE GREAT: the good and the contents as 30g of the artist's exglitzy at the Serpentine last crement, "naturally preserved". night viewed an exhibition which contained two display cabinets showing cans of the late Piero Manzoni's excrement, writes David Lister.

He produced Menta d'artisur (.4rtist's shit) in 1961 at the height of the economic boom of postwar Italy as a signed and numbered edition of 90 that were weighed and sold for the equivalent of the current market rate of gold. Their labels describe the Germano Celant, the cura-

tor of last night's exhibition, said: "The cans of Merda d'artista offer a frank criticism of how works of art are turned into desirable objects of special meaning and value. The cans are not meant to be opened and their true content remains the object of conjecture."

However, the content is no longer a matter of conjecture. One of the cans has leaked.

links directly to an exclusive area

on the NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

We have five NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC CD-Rom sets (5 CD

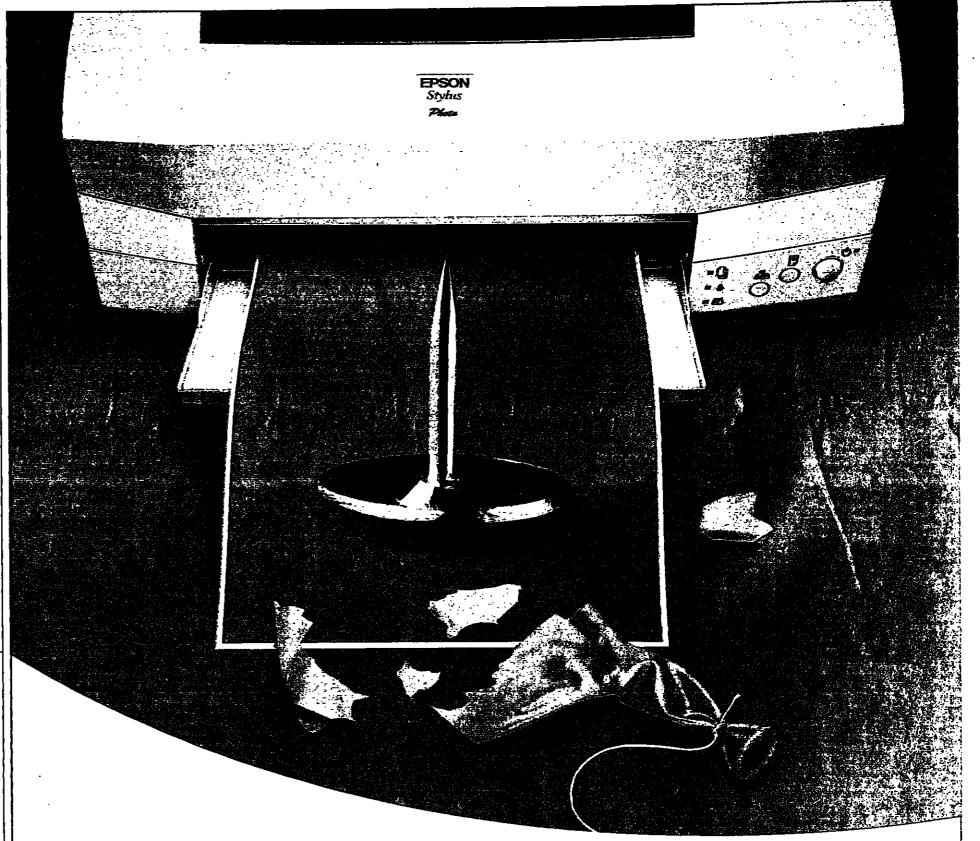
Rom's in a set - price £29,99) to

To enter this competition simply dial the number below, answer

Q: Name the largest mammal.

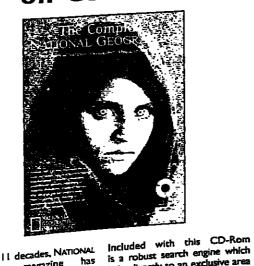
following question on line and leave your name and full

win, courtesy of Mindscape.



INDEPENDENT

WIN National Geographic 'The Decades' on CD-Rom



For nearly 11 decades, NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC magazine fascinated and educated readers everywhere with its compelling explorations and descriptions of the natural world.

You now have the chance to view thousands of full colour photo images from award winning photojournalists covering the American West, Polar Regions and The Natural World on the new CD-Rom set available on Win 95/Mac CD-Rom.

The CD-Rom set incorporates every issue from the 1980's through to 1996 which includes the stories, page maps, graphics, biographies on National GEOGRAPHIC photographers plus classic period advertising from

Call 0930 525274

Calls cost 50p per matice at air times. Winners picked at random after lines close 28 February 1998 Usual Newspaper Publishing rules apply. Editor's decision is final

For unbelievably

pin sharp photos and documents, look no further.

Photos and documents are just the beginning.



Only EPSON has a unique Piezo Crystal print head which guarantees pin sharp prints every time. This gives EPSON a distinct edge when it comes to producing high quality photo and text

In fact EPSON Photo Reproduction Quality is so good it gives you prints which rival those produced by high street developers. And if your prints look good, imagine what your other documents will look like.

EPSON PhotoEnhance mode will automatically adjust brightness, exposure and contrast, leaving you with truly superb results. You'll even be able to print from 4"x6" right up to A4.

EPSON-THERE'S NO COMPARISON

The EPSON Stylus Photo also comes with Live Pix (V1.0) photo editing software, which means you can manipulate your photos at the touch of a button, even remove red eye. And of course it's Windows and Apple Mac compatible.

We'll even throw in a sample paper pack to help get you started. All this for around £259. For more information on the EPSON Stylus Photo call 0800 220 546 or pop into your local EPSON dealer.

EPSON





Blair says no U-turn on lone parents

Political Correspondent

TONY BLAIR denied that the Government had done a U-turn over lone parent benefits yesterday after reports that the budget would bring relief to the poorest families. Challenged about the stories

by William Hague, the Conservative leader, he claimed the reports were untrue.

"We are not backsliding and those stories are wrong," he said. There is no U-turn, there will be no change in those regulations on lone-parent benefits."

However, there was a strong feeling in Conservative ranks that stories in the Guardian and Financial Times had been planted in order to afford Harriet Harman an easier ride at an MPs' committee hearing yes-

The articles claimed the forthcoming budget would compensate for the recent cut in lone parents' benefits by giving extra payments to all poor families with children.

In addition to replacing Family Credit with a new Working Families' Tax Credit, the Government would also increase payments for children of parents on benefits.

Mr Hague suggested that the Government was trying to buy off its own left wing, which has objected strongly to the cuts. "You know you can have the

support of the Opposition on this issue, so on this issue why don't you stop trying to govern the Labour Party and start governing the country?" he

There were suspicions that the leaks, which suggested the cuts might be restored without any apparent backing for the as-

incide with an appearance by Harriet Harman and the welfare reform minister Frank Field before the Social Securi-

David Rendel, the Liberal Democrat Social Security Spokesman, said the news of the climbdown would be welcome

that the changes should not increase the problems of the poverty trap, he said.

Secretary, said in a speech to a Labour "Welfare Roadshow" in Derby that the Government wanted to switch a significant share of national wealth away from benefits and into public

always tried to keep a proper tween cash benefits and ser-

The last government spent an extra £44bn on social security in real terms, an increase of 67 per cent, he added.

By comparison, spending on education rose by only 35 per cent, from £28bn to £38bn. He called for a new consensus for reform and promised it would not be carried out without full consultation.

sertion, had been timed to coty Select Committee.

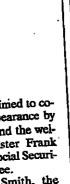
Iain Duncan Smith, the Conservative social security spokesman, said: "There was a briefing which was clearly intended to get Harriet off the hook. It was the Chancellor's way of giving Harriet some kudos because he owes her that because she is carrying the can for him."

"I am particularly concerned

Later, Jack Straw, the Home

"Labour governments have

balance in the welfare state bevices. Under the Conservatives, cash benefits were allowed to get out of control and overtake services as a proportion of national wealth." he said.





DAMON Albarn, lead singer of the Britpop band Blur, yesterday lambasted Tony Blair and the "Labour luvvies" who have flocked to Downing Street champagne receptions since the election. Mr Albarn went to the Commons to lead a protest against government plans to abolish stu-

a scathing attack on the Prime Minister's relationship with "Cool Britannia", he said: "I think that the sort of display when Labour won the election and everyone turning up at Num-

ber 10 was pretty disgusting. It was vulgar." ly about the issue that he had become involved about the abolition of student grants. Joining

issue of being a young government and yet they are taking a fundamental right of being young and being allowed to be young away."

The singer joined hundreds of people who turned up at Westminster to lobby their MPs

Labour Party for introducing this kind of measure. It is a betrayal of everything the Labour Party has stood for and I will light it

French accuse Blair, page 14

Brotherly conflict may sink 'Morning Star'

By Barrie Clement

BRITAIN'S only Marxist daily newspaper is in imminent danger of closure after its Communist journalists walked out on indefinite strike yesterday in protest at the allegedly authoritarian attitude of their Communist managers. The fratricidal conflict at the

Morning Star has all the hallmarks of a traditional capitalindustrial dispute: allegations of rank injustice, accusations of "gross industrial misconduct", involvement of highly paid lawyers, an inter-

union row and even the intervention of Arthur Scargill. What makes this a particu-

larly vicious political soap opera, apart from the involvement of Communists on both sides, is the atmosphere of personal animosity which pervades the offices of the Star at Hackney, east London. The journalists, who earn

£10,000 a year in return for their dedication to the labour movement, have walked out because John Haylett, their editor, has been suspended for disciplinary reasons and his deputy, Martin Corrie, appointed temporarily in his place. Mr Corrie happens

to be the son-in-law of Mary Rosser, the paper's chief executive, which adds the allegation of nepotism to the rich mix of charge and counter-charge.

Ms Rosser accuses the deposed editor of "gross industrial misconduct", which, according to Mr Haylett's supporters, is reference to his use of the Star's computer system for political purposes, an unremarkable activity for a Communist. it is said. A sub-text to a multi-layered argument is that Mike Hicks, Ms Rosser's husband, was recently voted out of his position as general secretary of the Communist Party of from 120,000 to about 6,500.

Britain by a majority of its ruling committee, which included Comrade Haylett.

Since the collapse of Communism the fragility of the Star's finances has entered an even more delicate phase. For 60 years after the paper was established on 1 January 1930 it was called the Daily Worker until April 1966 - it was heavily subsidised by the Communist bloc. Since the collapse of the Berlin Wall it has been supported for the most part by block sales to unions like Unison and the Transport & General. Circulation has declined

stays off the streets, the greater the likelihood of bankruptcy. Standing in the wings, according to the Star yesterday moruing, is Arthur Scargill, president of the National Union of Mineworkers and leader of the Socialist Labour Party. Apparently the Communist Party of Britain, which effectively controls the Star, has been in talks

with Mr Scargill about the possibility of his party buying it. Management of the paper and the National Union of Journalists were last night locked in discussions at the Acas conciliation service in an

attempt to thrash out a compromise. Ms Rosser said she was hopeful the talks would lead to a quick solution, and rejected union allegations that the case against the suspended editor was "trivial". The NUJ described the charged against Mr Haylett as "trumped up".

Not all trade unionists at the paper offered the journalists their unswerving solidarity. Leaders of the GPMU print workers' union claim they have not been properly consulted and that the NUI is involved in a rather esoteric dispute which could mean the loss of their members' jobs.

233-2

Family PC

55k Voice modern 24x NAX CD-ROM

(17" optional extra)

15" SVGA colour screen

Over (20) software bundle Network C Raily game 90 Minute VHS video trainer

Product codes 15' 212 17' 213

£1099

ATX medi lower with oil standard

BT just made the weekend cheaper.







Local Calls 1p

National Calls 3p

Local weekend calls with BT are just 1p a minute. And thanks to the latest price cut (the 13th in the last 2 years) national weekend calls are now only 3p a

minute (5p minimum charge per call). BT has also designed a range of discounts to suit the calls you make, giving you extra savings on your local, national and international calls.

If anyone claims they can give you cheaper calls than BT, call 0800 003 800 to check you're getting all your discounts.

See how BT'	s discounts save you EXTRA mo	SAVING
DISCOUNT	HOW YOU SAVE	10%
Friends & Family	Save each time to those you call most often.	
	Get an extra 10% savings off your top UK Friends & Family number.	20%
(Savings start let May) PremierLine	Add PremierLine to Friends & Farrary to 2016.	25%
Country Calling Plan 30 Countries	- international Calls Wileli Jon	439



Call us NOW on **0800 003 800** and check you're getting all your discounts.

ENDS & FAMELY IS NOT AVAILABLE WITH LIGHT USER SCHEME, BESTFRIEND - EXCLUDES MOBILE PREMIERLINE COSTS IS PER CLUARITER COUNTRY CALLING PLAN COSTS IN PER COUNTRY
PER MONTH, 5 CALLING PLANS TO 30 COUNTRIES AVAILABLE, EXCLUDES BY CHARGESARD CALLS, MARRAIM CHARGE SP PER CALL.

Time for Lower Factory Prices and the **Best Showroom Service**

We cut out the middleman We sell to you direct because, with no middleman, it means lower prices for you. Ora coun appositions are a specialise only in PC systems serve you directly and can give you better advice to enable you to select the

We design our PCs to be future-proof
We make all the PCs we sell in Britain and

can incorporate the latest PC technology to give you better specifications. Systems are lesigned to be easily upgradeable so that they will grow with you and not become Try before you buy

Visit your local showroom and take a closer look at the quality and performance of our systems. Pick-up our PC Buyer's Guide and speak to our staff who will give source specialist advice, in jargon-free plain english We get you started

Our PCs are pre-configured and ready for use with preloaded software. Simply plug in and switch on. Our unique 90 minute VHS video trainer and user guide covers all aspects of normal PC usage and you can watch k and learn from it at your own pace and at times convenient to you

10 years of service and Support
Our service is also direct and we have been

serving customers for over 10 years. Who else can provide the best service but the people who designed and bulk your PC. Each store has trained technicians and an in-store rice centre in addition to direct hotine telephone SUDDOTL

Money back guarantee
Buy with confidence with complete peace of mind. We believe our products, services an resent the best value in the UK. II you are not happy for whatever reason, you can return your PC to us within 14 days for 2 full refund excluding delivery costs.

41 UK Showrooms Other Time



200M Family PC

intel 200met Paper processor with MMX** schridgy* 3296 RAM 4.3Gb hard disk 58k Votor modern 24k MAX CD-ROM 30 wavetable sound 400b STS Advanced using Spistern RAM
14" SVGA colour screen
115" optional care)
1881 GOLD speech ecognition
1714 SVGA colour screen
175" optional care) SF525 steroo sposker e

Year 2000 compliant
ATX mid lawer with all
standard feetures vies 14" 206 15" 207

Over 1900 soloware bundle Network Q Rally game 90 Minuse VHS video trainer

200M-2 Family PC is 200M above but with faster ISM

As 2004 Booke Out of the Minor, Assisted Proport processor with Minor, technology, burger Guide RAMA, addition Microsoft SAH software bundle and PREE Inghes spec Epson Stylaus Calor 400 colour Sanita. Product codes 14" 209 15" 210

EXEC Models

The Fastest Systems



(Limited to first 2000 Family PC bundles)

Free Epson Stylus Color 300 colour inket printer

Higher spec Epson Stylus Color 400 with M-2 required PC cable. 233M-2 Family PC Highest performance m +VAT = £116.33 axis;

BLEX technology. PC-TV system with Product codes 15" 214 17" 219 Buy Now...Pay August '98

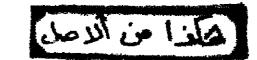
Freephone Time Now!

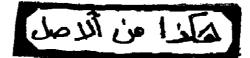
COMPUTER SYSTEMS

INTEREST FREE CREDIT

Only when prechased with EVEC modes: Example 2008 Farmly EVEC Mode: Pay use \$ 107 to \$ 110%; dispose and men "GRAY; to pay for 8 months. After 8

All offers end 28th February





BRITISH GAS HAVE REDUCED THEIR PRICES WHICH COULD MEAN SAVINGS OF AROUND 159 ON GAS BILLS, NOW, BRITISH GAS ENERGY CENTRES HAVE FOLLOWED SUIT, THEY'RE OFFERING 15% EXTRA OFF SELECTED COOKERS, FIRES AND FIRE SURROUNDS ON TOP OF THEIR CURRENT OFFERS. ALSO, IF YOU BUY A NEW CENTRAL HEATING BOILER FROM BRITISH GAS SERVICES, THERE'S A CHANCE TO WIN HOLIDAY VOUCHERS WORTH \$1,500 BUT HURES THE COMPETITION ONLY LASTS UNTIL MARCH THE YES, YOU GUESSED IT) 15TH, TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THESE OFFERS.

Washington of the last of the

the form the state of the examination of the state of the

ning Star'

ory Prices om Service

233-2 Family PC

British Gas

Official: stress makes us turn to the chocolate box and biscuit tin "Some researchers have short-lived, however. Unwrap-

By Jeremy Laurance Health Editor

STRESS makes us eat sweets. Psychologists have found that we respond to the daily hassles of modern living by reaching for the biscuit tin and the chocolate bar rather than the brown rice and green salad.

nurses and teachers who kept a diary of domestic rows, car breakdowns and problems at work found that such incidents led to consumption of more sweet foods, high-fat fast-foods and alcohol.

Professor Andrew Steptoe, of St George's Hospital Med-

A study of 40 psychiatric ical School in London who conducted the study, published in the British Journal of Health Psychology, said the findings showed that even minor day-to-mon problems of work stress day stresses could alter eating and domestic conflict could and drinking patterns with potential long-term consequences for health.

"We have known that

bereavement, or doing exams can have an effect. But we didn't know until now that cominduce similar changes."

An individual's desire for sugar when under stress could to see why this should be necbe the result of a biological im-

Professor Steptoe said: "In some situations, such as when you know you are going to have to work long hours, you may feel the need to top up your energy levels. But it is difficult

Pressure at home or work may make people less inclined to cook so they stop for a burger on the way home, or open another packet of biscuits.

But there was also the comfort factor, Professor Steptoe

chemistry of the brain that makes us pick up certain foods when in certain moods. It may be that we select them to achieve a restoration of equi-

The benefits tend to be Steptoe said. librium in mood."

Learning

last for

By Judith Judd

Education Editor

countries.

ONE MILLION people will each receive £150 towards ed-

ucation or training as part of

Government plans to promote

lifelong learning.

And a new learning di-

rect" hotline will offer advice to

callers on courses on anything

from basket weaving to brain

The aim is to improve the

skills of Britain's workforce so

that they match those of other

But critics argue that the money on offer is derisory and

that little extra training will

dividual learning accounts which might be targeted first at women returning to work after having

children, single parents, the un-

employed and workers wanting

a minimum of £25 to their ac-

counts and employers will also

be asked to contribute. Ministers

which ministers intend to be-

come as commonplace as a

bank account, will have a smart

card detailing their education-

al qualifications and the mon-

David Blunkett, the Secre-

tary of State for Education, said

that future workers would need to constantly update their skills

because there would be no

Thirty-live learning centres

in shopping malls, housing es-

tates and a football club are al-

ready piloting the idea. The

centres offer advice about

courses and learning materials

in places near where people live,

work and shop. They also offer

such thing as a job for life.

ey they have accumulated.

ryone with an account,

People will be asked to add

to update their basic skills.

scheme to

a lifetime

ping a chocolate bar may bring instant gratification but it is frequently followed by feelings of guilt. "It is a double edgedsword. Trying to cheer ourselves up with chocolate may be effective in the short term, but not in the long run," Professor

Fever pitch: Chelsea and England International, Graeme Le Saux, scores a goal against a Sainsbury team at the launch of the supermarket's England sponsorship deal Photograph: Nicola Kurtz take place unless employers are supermarket's England sponsorship deal Photograph: Nicola Kurtz take place unless employers are supermarket's England sponsorship deal Photograph: Nicola Kurtz

England nets Sainsbury as official sponsor mittee made up of Alan Shear- Euro '96 companies regard

By Rosa Prince

THE Sainsbury supermarket chain yesterday launched itself as the Official England Superjoins, among others in the "of-

cial lager and Snickers, the

official chocolate bar. Sainsbury revealed its plans "half-time meal solutions" - de-

See bow little it

costs to belp secure your

family's future.

the official detergent; BP, the of-ficial fuel; Carlsberg, the offi-in matches. As sponsors of the in matches. As sponsors of the England team, Sainsbury and the other companies have access to the "players' pool" of the England squad, who, for a fee, will appear in advertisements or make personal appearances.

David Seaman, the England goalkeeper, recently posed with a petrol pump for BP, and Rio and Les Ferdinand have appeared in adverts for Cannon Sure Shot, the official camera.

There is no hierarchy in the players' pool, run by a com-

er, Tony Adams, Stuart Pierce sponsorship as worthwhile. In and David Seaman. Whatever is earned by the players is put into the pool and shared out. Green Flag, the car break-

down company - which signed a £4m, four-year, deal with the Football Association in 1994 is the official, Official Sponsors of the England Team. It is the only company entitled to put its reach our target audience of 18 logo on the players' training kit. to 24-year-old men."

Meanwhile, Sainsbury, Coca-Cola, Ariel Automatic, Cannon, Carlsberg, Umbro, Snickers and BP are associate sponsors.

After the public frenzy of

return they get the right to class products as "official" and can sport the three lions logo on packaging, opening up vast marketing opportunities.

Carlsberg, said By definition are considering whether to ofbeer drinkers tend to be football : fer tax incentives to encourage fans and this is an ideal way to employers to invest in training.

Jonathan Pearson, of Greenflag, whose contract expires after the World Cup, said: "It's been a superb deal for us ... we have raised our profile enormously with our target audience."

Woman takes charge of toughest criminals

By Jason Bennetto Crime Correspondent

A FORMER marketing executive has a demanding new job - being locked in jail with some of Britain's most dangerous criminals. Sarah Selvey, 32, a psychologist, will be treating inmates at a new unit in Buckinghamshire that include the armed robber Charles Bronson and kidnapper and killer Michael Sams.

Mrs Selvey, who has 13month-old triplets, will be on her own with the prisoners in a consulting room during therapy sessions. The only security will be an officer monitoring the interview through a glass door. Despite the prospect of dealing with highly violent and disruptive prisoners, she is undaunted. "We are aware of looking for early warning signs and agitation, signs of aggression, I don't feel any more at risk with them than with a normal prisoner or meeting a stranger in a pub. You have to be wary, because some of them have taken people



Sarah Selvey: On her own with violent criminals

hostage and they do have the potential for violence. But because of that you have to look at what triggered that."

The inmates will be interviewed for about one hour per week by Mrs Selvey, who will be conducting psychometric tests to determine a prisoner's level of psychopathy and impulse control. Her assessment will be used to influence whether prisoners are placed in harsher or more lenient regimes as part of their treatment.

There was widespread welcome for the principles behind the Green Paper, but doubts about the effectiveness of its

John Edmonds, general secretary of the GMB, says in today's Education+ section of The Independent that employers should be compelled by law to pay 2 per cent of their wages bill for training: "Reliance on voluntarism lies at the root of the UK's failure to match the skill levels and career opportunities abroad." Sir Ron Dearing, author of

advice to the Government on both post-16 and higher education, said the Government's heart was in the right place but the £150 accounts "will not buy And Stephen Dorrell, the

Tory education spokesman, said: "The Government talks of up to

WHAT £150 WILL **BUY YOU**

What the £175 (£150 plus £25 OCCOUNT WOULD buy:

£155

legai and £175 secretarial course A day's first aid training £150

one million learning accounts but these are to be funded by stealing £150m from the Training and Enterprise Councils."

Mr Blunkett defended the decision not to compel employers to contribute to accounts. "They currently contribute £10.5bn towards training their employees. What we have to do is to encourage employers, individuals and the Government to work together. each playing their part in equipping the country for tomorrow." Education+, the Eye

one-to-one tuition. Dearing says universities urgently need £1 bn extra

UNIVERSITIES need more "Unless there is a strong remoney quickly if Britain is to remain competitive, Sir Ron Dearing, author of the government review of higher education, said yesterday, writes Judith Judd.

Ministers backed the findings of Sir Ron's inquiry into higher education but said that universities would have to wait until the summer for their response to his call for an extra £1bn.

In his inquiry report published last July Sir Ron said that an extra £350m was needed this year and a further £565m next. So far the Government has offered £165m this year.

Sir Ron said the money was needed partly to renew research equipment and laboratories. He said yesterday: and small."

sponse by the Government, a major national asset will be severely damaged. The capital backlog for the sciences is measured in terms of hundreds of millions.

The report also said that money was needed to help pay for extra students.

Sir Ron said that the end of the limit on funded places for students was a welcome first step. "But it is only a first step. Britain must never again fall behind competitor nations as it did in the Eighties. To remain competitive over the next five years there is a clear need for more diplomats and graduates in modern enterprises both large

Prostate gland drug 'not worth taking'

RESEARCHERS have found a drug that works against a condition suffered by one in three middle-aged men. But it is not worth taking writes Jeremy

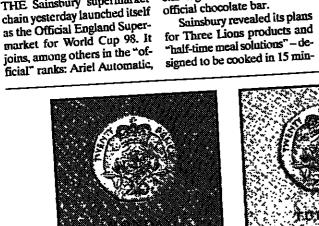
Laurance. The story of finasteride, a drug for prostate problems. demonstrates the difficulty of judging when a proven medical treatment is worthwhile.

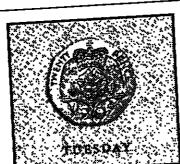
larged prestate gland and in 35 per cent it will become severe enough to cause symptoms such as difficulty in urinating and bladder infections. Some have to undergo surgery to remove the gland and the operation is now the second most common in the age group.

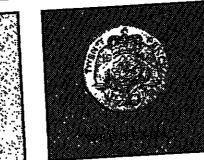
The drug finasteride can

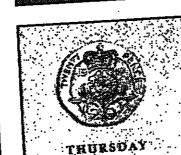
All men over 50 have an en- shrink the gland and ease the symptoms, but its long-term effect was unknown. A study United States and Canada published in the New England Jouramong 3,000 men treated with finasteride over four years the

On the face of it a dramatic effect. But in an editorial, Dr John Wasson, of the Dartmouth conducted in 95 centres in the Medical School in Hanover, New Hampshire, says: "Treatment with finasteride ... may be nal of Medicine shows that unwarranted for most men with this disorder "The reason is that although there was a halving of number needing surgery to deal those needing surgery, the rewith their problems was halved. duction in risk was small.











In an ideal world you will always be there for your family. But should the worst happen, would they be able to cope without you?

You may well now up it could help safeguard your family's

OULD COST YOU stays the same. be surprised to BENEFIT TERM PER DAY learn that for 550,300 15 yrs 20p** the monthly \$89,000 15 yrs 31pt

Legal & General's Family Protection Plan will ensure that the lump sum is paid should you die during the period of time you select.

equivalent of Based on a male non-smoker aged 30 years.
(Acceptance subject to individual's details.) For a quotation call the number below. Alternatively, contact your

financial future.



financial adviser.

This valuable cover is easy to

budget for as you only pay a

premium for a fixed period of time,

and the amount you pay each month

The sooner you

apply, the sooner

you could be sure

that your family's

future is secure.

FOR AN INSTANT QUOTE ON LOW COST COVER CALL FREE ON: 66 0500

QUOTING THE REFERENCE NUMBER C3/DJ07 Further information on Legal & General products is available http://www.legal-znd-general.co.uk http://www.legal-zon-general.co.ux

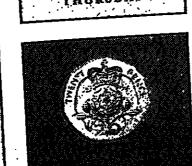
Now and then, we may tell you about other products or services offered by the Legal & Gen

of companies that we believe may be of interest to you. If you would prefer not to receive th

selected information, please contact us at the address below.

Legal & General Direct Limited is a representative only of the Legal & General marketing members of which are regulated by the Personal Investment Authority and IMRO) purposes of recommending, advising on and selling life assurance and investment purposes of Recommending, advising on and selling life assurance and investment publicating Legal & General's dense.

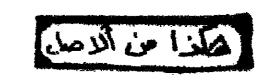
Legal & General Direct Unitted, Registered in England No. 702060. Registered Office 11 Queen Victoria Street, London EC4N 4TP.



FIND OUT MORE TODAY. Post to: Legal & General, FREEPOST (SWC 0467), Cardiff CF1 1YW. Please send me a personal quounion and information pack on legal & General's Family Protection Plan.



trust us to deliver



ON THE DAEWOC GIVE YOU THIS AS STANDA

> Every New C comes with comprehens

. We dea Hore for yo as standard del airbags deering.

2 Hassle fixed price: delivery, ne and 12 mos

3. Compl of mind:

3 year/60. servicing II and labour

3 year/60. comprehe

3 year Da Cover. 6 year ar

> 4. Cour tree cou whenev

Warranty

Our thr ranges

g service

Call 08

£8,795

PEAC

ONTIFIEONE

YOU ALL

the following

iensive package:

êal direct:

your money dancluding

gs and power

sle free buying:

ees including

number plates

3. Complete peace

3 year/60.000 mile free

servicing including parts

comprehensive warranty.

3 year Daewoo Total AA

6 year anti-corrosion

Free courtesy car

Our three new car

£8,795 to £14,995.

Call 0800 666 222.

ranges are priced from

PEACE OF MIND

AS STANDARD?

THAT'LL BETHE

DAEWOO.

4. Courtesy servicing:

whenever yours is in for

of mind:

and labour.

Cover.

warranty.

a service.

3 year/60,000 mile

onths road tax.

biscuit tin

rning eme to : for fetime

g says universities y need fibn extra इंद्रा शहरका कर । व

 $(\underline{\mathbf{j}},\underline{\mathbf$

.

} -- -- · · · · · · ·

graf and the live service

المراجعين والمجتبرين

5 . 10 500

15.7

32. 25 -. 32 - X -J

ان د منوع – منوع 38 38 m 199

8 - L

Brandina -- $_{p}(\mathbf{x}_{n}^{2}\pm\mathbf{x}_{n}\pm\mathbf{x}_{n}^{2}\pm\mathbf{x}_{n}^{2})$

The Sage

San Marine Const.

mark promise

Secretary water and

PANTYLE OF T

景等·通知者(1918年) (1918年)

ge district of the

والحا المنافق المجينات المنزوجين

gajagaja saa saa s Geographica States

A SHOP THE PARTY OF THE STATE OF कुद्रको र स्थापन विसे १५ ।

gerigus (1985) Si

in the second

in green and And the second 4×移移4

18 mg

-12ax

No. No. 3

Jan 5- 4-15

42----

\$4.50 Factors 1

en version worth taking 11/FOREIGN

THE INDEPENDENT THURSDAY 26 FEBRUARY 1998

South Korea ditches 'Asian values' mantra



On song: The pop star Michael Jackson being greeted by schoolboys in Seoul yesterday at the inauguration of Kim Dae Jung, the first South Korean leader drawn from opposition ranks Photograph: Reuters

New president warns about economic

crises, and sets out to woo the North,

writes Richard Lloyd Parry in Seoul

KIM DAE JUNG was inaugurated as President of South Korea yesterday and began his leadership with a speech rejecting the so-called "Asian values" that give economic growth priority over democracy and human rights.

More than 40,000 spectators, including retired heads of state and the singer Michael Jackson, leased into a warm winter sky, drums were beaten and a 21-gun salute was fired at the first inauguration of a South Korean leader drawn from the ranks of the opposition parties.

After the ceremony, mud which had been brought in from the different provinces of South Korea was used to plant a "tree of reconciliation", and a carnival procession of floats, dancers, musicians and vegetables paraded through the streets arrangements, Mr Kim was frank about the "stupefying sitsuffering that lies ahead.

which could bankrupt our coun-ness, "Democracy and the martry," the President warned. ket economy are two sides of a

attended the ceremony held in lucomes will drop and an infront of Scoul's National As- creasing number of companies in an implicit rebuke to such sembly building. Doves were re- will go bankrupt. All of us are leaders as Indonesia's President being asked to shed sweat and tears". Since the currency turmoil

first hit East Asia last summer. the South Korean won has lost half of its value, forcing the closure of thousands of companies \$60bn (£38bn) bail-out from the International Monetary Fund

But unlike Indonesia, the setbacks". other big victim of the crisis in Asia, the situation in South of Seoul. For all the festive Korea has stabilised this year, erament of the people", conthanks in part to Mr Kim's re- tained a check-list of the grave assuring pledges to abide by the uation" facing his new govern- terms of the IMF agreement ment and the economic and not blunt its stipulations as ranked as the world's 11tha result of domestic pressure largest economy. He promised or dead ... must end as soon as "We are faced with a crisis from trade unions and big busi- to decentralise government, at- possible," he said.

"Consumer prices and un- coin or two wheels of a cart; if never succeed," Mr Kim said, Suharto, who wield authoritarcal opponents in the name of

"Asian values". "Every nation that has embraced both democracy and a market economy has been sucand a humiliating appeal for a cessful. Nations ... that have rejected democracy and accepted only a market economy have ended up suffering disastrous

Mr Kim's half-hour speech, outlining the plans of his "govproblems facing South Korea which, less than a year ago,

tract more foreign investment, and reform South Korea's huge conglomerates. It is their thirst for expansion at the expense of consolidation which is thought to have contributed to the country's economic plight. Mr Kim promised few specific measures, but opinion polls suggest the public has high hopes for employment will rise this year. they were separated we could him, after the moribund and disdecessor, Kim Young Sam.

One subject on which the new President did make deian power and suppress politi- tailed proposals was North Korea, and the painful division which has existed on the peninsula since the end of the Korean War in 1953.

Mr Kim proposed an exchange of envoys between Seoul and the North Korean capital, Pyongyang, and said he was ready to hold a summit meeting at any time.

"The Cold-War style North-South relations which for more than half a century have not allowed members of separated families to find out even whether their own parents and brothers and sisters were alive

A final triumph against all odds

THE MOST striking image in Seoul yesterday came at the beginning of the inauguration, when Kim Dae Jung, the new president, was greeting guests. There were former Japanese prime ministers, an ex-president of the Philippines, a retired German chancellor, the financier George Soros, and Michael Jackson. And there, framed by the huge screen above the stage, were two other heads, one bald and bespectacled, the other long and lugubrious.

They belonged to the former presidents Chun Doo Hwan and Roh Tae Woo, among the most famous and most loathed in South Korea. The last time was in court where, hands tied, they were sentenced to prison for murder and treason. Now they were chatting amiably with the new president, a man whose death they once plotted.



Mr Kim: Suffered jail, exile, abduction and a death plot

they were seen together like this ways been subject to brutal about-turns. Presidents can be turned into convicts and then talistic certainty that what he is turned back into respected pub-doing is right", Mr Kim spent lic figures. Yesterday the world witnessed another of these in exile under the military dic-South Korean politics has al- dissident and political prisoner, 1973 he was kidnapped by the end once and for all.

became president. After al- South Korean version of the most 40 years in opposition, he CIA, which planned to drown comes to power at his country's him. In 1980 he was condemned most difficult period since the death after a show trial. Both 1950-53 Korean War. But he is times, only US intervention already showing he has the saved him. quality that so many South Korean politicians lack, whether they are military dictators or democrats, which is the ability to compromise and forgive.

known, follows that of the movement. South Korean democracy movement as a whole, a bumpy, fractious, but finally triumphant rise to power. He grew up in Cholla, the poor south-western province, and was elected to the

National Assembly in 1961. of one writer, "a martyr's fasix years in prison and 10 years

Before his victory in December he had lost three presidential elections, usually owing to vote-rigging by the government but once because of divi-The progress of DJ, as he is sions within the democracy

His most bitter fall-out was with his former friend, the outgoing president, Kim Young Sam, who became almost as implacable a foe as his other persecutors. But in the two month since his election, he has shown A Catholic with, in the words a knack for reconciliation. As president-in-waiting he has brokered an agreement on lay-offs between unions and employers, as well as approving the release from jail of the two men who swings, when Mr Kim, a former tators who ruled until 1987. In nearly brought his career to an

Indonesia fires rage out of control

Richard Lloyd Parry. At a meeting of South-East Asian environment ministers yesterday the Malaysian rep- caused \$1.4bn (£875m) of boscis monkeys. resentative reported a reap- damage, \$1bn of it in Indone-

large areas of South-East Asia and Sarawak, in the Malaysian most of it as a result of dam-relations between Indonesia last year is returning to parts part of Borneo. Last year the age to health and lost tourism and its neighbours. Yesterday, of Malaysia as forest fires burn smog caused lung problems, and industrial production. out of control on Indonesian drove away tourists and con- About 1,000 forest fires are a mouthpiece for the governterritory in the islands of Bor- 'tributed to fatal accidents in burning in Kalimantan, the neo and Sumatra, writes Indonesia, Malaysia, Singa- Indonesian portion of Borlished yesterday said the haze such as orang-utans and pro-

pore, Brunei, Thailand and the noo, and they have killed or put Philippines. A report pub- to flight endangered species

Last year's problem mitments."

THE SMOG which blighted pearance of the haze in Sabah sia, and \$300m in Malaysia, strained generally harmonious the Singaporean Straits Times, ment, said no excuses would be accepted this time.

"What is at stake now is ... Indonesia's reputation as a nation that can be relied on to fulfil its international comAND ON THE OTHER HAND **DAEWOO ALSO GIVE YOU** THIS AS STANDARD:

> I Year's Free Insurance until 31st March (subject to status)

AYEAR'S FREE INSURANCE? THAT'LL BETHE MAEWOO.



Sierra Leone war traps missionaries

By Ed O'Loughlin in Freetown

with BOSE Speaker System. 2Mb ATI 3D

Rage Pro Graphics, 33.6Kbps Modem.

12 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION.

17" monitor. MODEL: Stealth S47.

THE COMPUTER SUPERSTORE

L 0990 646 464

STORES NATIONWIDE

"BASED ON CURRENT SELLING PRICES OF ACTUAL OR EQUIVALENT TITLES (EXCLUDING DISKS AND MANUALS FOR PRE-LOADED SOFTWARE). THE TRITLE DISIDE LOGG AND PENTRAM ARE REGISTERED TRADEMARKS OF THE INTEL CORPORATION. ALL PRICES INCLUDE WIT WRITTEN CREDIT QUIORITIONS AMPLIABLE ON REQUEST FROM: DEPT MAY POR, MAYLANDS AVENUE, HEXEL HEMPSTEAD, MP2 7TG AND MINKS IS A TRADEMARK OF THE INTEL CORPORATION. ALL PRICES INCLUDE WIT WRITTEN CREDIT QUIORITIONS AMPLIABLE ON REQUEST FROM: DEPT MAY POR, MAYLANDS AVENUE, HEXEL HEMPSTEAD, MP2 7TG

幣 12 MONTHS

INTEREST FREE

OPTION

WITH NO DEPOSIT ON ALL PRODUCTS OVER £250

**Recount is Interest Free if record in full before, or with the 6/9/12th monthly payment Options are as follows: 6 months for products £750-£699; 9 months for products £700-£1299; 12 months for products our £1300.

ypical example: Cash price £1500. No depost. 1 northly payments of £50.71. Belance of £942.15 to be paid before or with 12th payment. One merest. Total paid £1500

SPREADATHE COSTEWITH 46 MONTOL & BEACOMENTS

Typical example. If halance is not established the Ltd. The analytic period Cash pains 1500 - 88 morbly payments of 50.71 Total amount paid CASA DR. All logars subset to 580.8.

FEARS are growing for the safety of dozens of foreign missionaries trapped by the civil

warfare engulfing Sierra Leone. A radio report from the northern city of Makeni said the rebel force led by the ousted dictator Johnny Paul Koroma has been looting, killing and raping civilians. About 50 Catholic missionaries are said to be trapped in Makeni, some from European nations including

Irciand. Fr Ercole Marcelli, an Italian missionary in radio contact with the group, says they have gathered in a church building after rebels destroyed their missions in outlying areas. When last contacted they were being done to help foreigners trapped visited regularly by Revolutionary United Front (RUF)

guerrillas. A report radioed by a local journalist from Makeni said the rebel forces - an alliance of the former government army and the RUF guerrillas - have been ordered to make stand at Makeni. There have been claims of atrocities. "Every night they are going house to house raping women and young

girls," said one report There is still no news either about the fate of five other endanger them further.

Catholic missionaries - three Spanish - abducted from the town of Lunsar by the RUF 10 days ago. Twenty-two other missionaries escaped on foot at night and walked 60 miles to

safety. Two doctors from the medical charity French Medecins Sans Frontieres have also been abducted. And eight aid workers are believed to be trapped near the interior capital of Bo, where they were assaulted by the RUF 10 days ago.

Fr Marcelli said Koroma, who has been seen in the Makeni area in recent days, may use the Westerners as a bargaining chip against the approaching forces. With no government or diplomatic missions operating in Sierra Leone, little can be in rebel-held areas.

The RUF - a peasant-based insurgency movement - has a history of committing atrocities

against civilians. Colonel Maxwell Khobe, commander of ECOMOG, the Nigerian-dominated west African peace-keeping force in Sierra Leone, said he is worried about the fate of the missionuries. ECOMOG has helicopters at its disposal, but feels any premature attempt to rescue the missionaries may only

12/FOREIGN

New York Mayor Giulani is unfazed at the prospect of the Grammys returning to LA

Clinton gives Florida a taste of his old magic

By Mary Dejevsky n Washington

IN A visit that was closely scruinto the big wide world out-point. side Washington since the five weeks ago.

It began last month, when a

Mr Greene made a limited

The trip, sandwiched between briefings on Iraq and a to inspect damage from Sunday's tornados and console victims of the state's most costly natural disaster since Hurricane Andrew five years ago.

While Mr Clinton had made other fund-raising trips and accompanied the Prime Minister, Tony Blair to a school in the Washington suburbs, he had been constantly chaperoned and kept away from the wider

time he had been let loose to do area before alighting for a walkcommunicate with ordinary tinised as a test of his authori- Americans, especially Ameriyesterday made his first excurpain". And he did not disap-

The Florida trip, with its po- he, or his advised Monica Lewinsky affair broke tential for dramatic television pictures of devastation at the Ponderosa trailer park, articulate victims already well-replanned fund-raising visit to bearsed in telling their stories California, took him to Florida in front of the cameras and heart-warming accounts of individual heroism and good fortune, was an ideal test ground for Mr Clinton's re-emergence. In such circumstances, the White House must have gambled, it would somehow be unseemly for reporters to quiz him on the exact nature of his relationship with a White House trainee. The gamble paid off.

Mr Clinton, who took a he-

public. Yesterday was the first licopter tour of the damaged what he has always done so well: about and money-promising address, was in his element. His facility as the great community, President Bill Clinton cans in trouble, and "feel their cator was clearly unimpaired by the events of recent weeks which left the question of why the Iraq crisis reaching its cliwary about his leaving the the public arena was starting to White House. After all, the be felt. Clinton supporters

> legations against him. While Washington politicians his credibility as President, his approval ratings in the country at large soared. The public seemed happy to draw a line between Mr Clinton's sex life (a matter for him, his wife, and the "other" woman/women) and his performance as president with which they were well

What all the polls also

showed, however, was that if Mr Clinton did lie about his relationship with Ms Lewinsky, or put pressure on Ms Lewinsky to lie, public approval could fade By last week, however, with

max, Mr Clinton's absence from American public had seemed talked wistfully about what entirely sanguine about the al- might have been if he had led the Iraq discussion at Ohio State University, rather than the and the media agonised about lacklustre trio of his Secretary of State, Madeleine Albright, Defense Secretary William Cohen, and National Security Adviser Sandy Berger, whose performance was widely judged as unconvincing.

The risk of keeping Mr Clinton out of harm's way was starting to seem greater than the risk of setting him loose. He had to get back on the road.

Last Georgia hostage is free

THE LAST United Nations hostage held by gunmen in the former Soviet republic of Georgia is free after his captors surrendered to security troops, a senior official said yesterday. A presidential press secretary said about 20 of those holding him had been captured but the group's leader, Gocha Esebua, and at least two others had escaped. - Reuters, Tbilisi

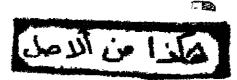
Swiss open legal brothel

SWITZERLAND'S first legal brothel opened its doors yesterday. Although the 30-room Petite Fleur in the Zurich suburb of Wollishofen was only half-full on its first day, manager Hans Berchtold said he considered it a success as the establishment only started advertising last week. — AP, Zurich

Pakistan trade benefits

A REPORT in Tuesday's Independent wrongly conveyed the impression that European Union foreign ministers had agreed to suspend trade benefits for Pakistan following allegations of child slavery. The article ought to have stated that trade unions were calling on the EU to withdraw the trade concessions it offers Pakistan which are worth over £2bn a year. The International Confederation of Free Trade Unions on Monday released filmed evidence to substantiate claims that factory owners in Pakistan are using child slave labour. Union leaders want the European Commission to carry out its own investigation.





idy bear

ituins 2001 Use (<u>20</u>44)

Spot

APR

Germany's Blair set to take on Kohl

By Imre Karacs

cian in Germany, was last night close to winning the coveted Social Democrat Party's nomination for Chancellor.

His selection would deal a severe blow to Helmut Kohl's reelection prospects. Mr Kohl, who is in the 16th year of his reign at the head of a coalition of Christian Democrats and Free Democrats, has trailed Mr Schröder in opinion polls for

The governing parties' election strategy has, however, rested on the assumption that the Social Democrats would shun



Gerhard Schröder: Set to challenge Helmut Kohl

lorida a

magic

orgia hostage is free

en legal brothel

but the cost.

ot the cover.

Mr Schröder's brand of centrist politics and throw their weight hehind Oskar Lafontaine, a passionate combatant of the old

Mr Lafontaine and his friends on the party executive recently have contrived to belittle Mr in the grey zone between Mr Schröder's electoral appeal. Schröder's self-imposed trapa protracted internal struggle, his rival, then Monday's meet-

mands yesterday for a quick decision on which of the two men should lead them into battle GERHARD Schröder, the against Mr Kohl. The matter most popular opposition politi- will be settled next Monday, the day after Mr Schröder is expected to be endorsed by voters of Lower Saxony, the Land

he has governed for eight years. The polls suggest Mr Schröder is set to win about 44 per cent of votes in his region; roughly the same as four years ago. He will not fight for the national nomination, he has said, if he loses 2 per cent of his share.

The changing mood in the Social Democrat party was evident at its traditional Ash Wednesday meeting, held in Vilshofen, Bavaria. Amid the customary adulation for Mr Lafontaine, who delighted delegates with a fiery speech, participants could not disguise their yearning for power, rather than empty left-wing rhetoric. "Lafontaine has always spoken the truth, but that alone cannot help us any more. In an election campaign, Schröder is better," said one delegate.

"You have ensured the next Chancellor will be a Social Democrat," said Renate Schmidt, a member of the party praesidium that will choose the candidate. "You must make a simple and quick decision on who should sit at the front of the tandem."

Mr Lafontaine, who was beaten by Mr Kohl in 1990, has not given up, however. He has indicated that if Mr Schröder gains 2 or 3 per cent in Sunday's Lower Saxony elections, he will go gracefully. If the result falls door and the hurdle erected by the leadership caved in to de- ing will be a bloody affair.



ish jetliner with a teddy bear he flown to Tehran. Three passaid was a bomb is a "psy- sengers overpowered Dag durchopath" with a drink problem ing a refueling stop five hours who wanted to be on TV, said into the ordeal. his wife and the police.

Turkish Airlines jet with 62 Okan said after questioning passengers and five crew aboard Dag. His wife, Fidan Dag, told shortly after take-off. Saying the reporters that he was jobless and teddy bear was loaded with ex-

A MAN who hijacked a Turk- plosives, he demanded to be

"He is a psychopath," Di-Mehmet Dag, 31, hijacked a yarbakir police chief Gaffar

DAILY POEM

Returns

By David Constantine

Returns: as when That evening in summer on a sunny breeze The Atlantic entered

A drop, one silver head, Out of it opening a whole water Out of it flowering and relaxing over the patience of the flats

And the gladness of the salt-loving lives was palpable, What could was floated, the carcasses Were at a depth, the veins

In a room on a jut of land with a window out, A captain's window, sea three sides the bed.

Into the chuckling sea we pushed our cries.

"Returns" comes from David Constantine's seventh collection, The Pelt of Wasps, published by Bloodaxe Books (£6.95).

Congratulations. You've just spotted a low cost mortgage.

it's easy to transfer.

 Our mortgage rate is 8.2% APR variable.

DIRECT LINE Call us now for more details. 0141 221 9099

0161 831 9099

LONDON MANCHESTER CALL ANYTIME 8am to 8pm Monday to Friday and 9am to 5pm Saturday. Please quote ref. IND 186



Party time: Revellers taking part in the Mardi Gras Day parade though the streets of New Orleans Photograph: Reuters

SA police battle security guards

By Mary Braid in Johannesburg

"SECURITY guards fighting policemen in the streets," said a Johannesburg office worker wryly. "The criminals must be rolling about laughing."

This week, Johannesburg has seen its worst street violence since the 1994 democratic elections as thousands of security guards, on all-out national strike, have clashed with police.

Tuesday saw the most violent confrontations as thousands of guards defied police and again took to the streets in support of a 12 per cent wage increase. Ten policemen were injured when rioters met rubber bullets with bricks and stones and set vehicles alight.

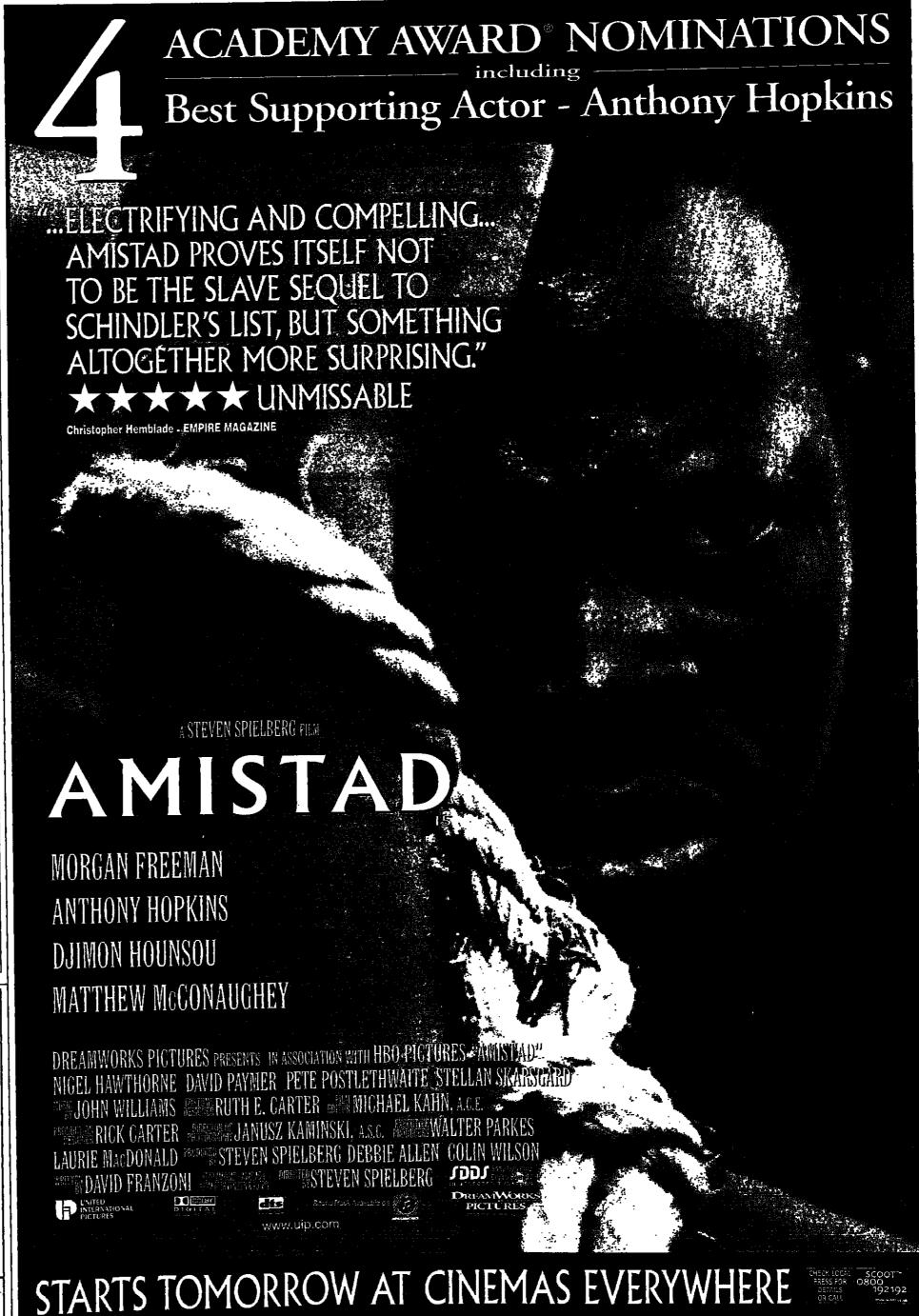
Earlier, groups of strikers had toured the city centre attacking guards who were still and his uniform in shreds, had to seek refuge in a police van. The strikers tactics were certainly violent but with the aver- presence.

age security guard taking home less than £100 a month it was bard not to sympathise with their complaints that they are risking their lives daily for a pittance.

Yesterday, the strikers again defied police to take to the streets for a third day. Officers in armoured vehicles prevented them from gathering in the same huge numbers and body searches resulted in 17 guns being seized from strikers. This time police were ahead of the game and there was less violence.

But the strikers - carrying placards warning policemen to stay away or "there will be civil war" - will be out in force again today after the breakdown of negotiations between employers and unions last night.

Few, if any countries, can boast a private security business as large as South Africa's; and few would want to. In the curworking. One guard, bleeding rent crime explosion, the police force is stretched to breaking and few, if any, companies are without a private security



Robert Fisk in Baghdad sees how a suffering nation has adapted to

constant crises NOT long after they started operations in Iraq, the men from the Unscom arms inspection team arrived at Baghdad University to check out the science department. "They asked to see the chemistry lab," one of the teachers says. "They walked

round the place. Then they

laughed." The incident said as much about Iraq's collapse as Unscom's behaviour. What should be mighty has become a mockery of itself. Even Baghdad's Museum of Natural Heritage, hallway after hallway of Tussaud-like Iraqis portraying their waxen selves as Sumerians, warrior kings and merchants, teachers and desert families, is laden with dust, its jaded figures collansed forward as if themselves suffering from UN sanctions.

Scott Ritter and his Unscom boys haven't yet checked out the museum but Baghdad is alive with a story, confirmed by an Unscom inspector, of how the search team turned up late at night to investigate a compound north of Baghdad. After Major Ritter had hammered on the door, it was opened by some sleepy but startled nuns. Unfazed, Maj Ritter spent an hour in the convent cemetery, prowling through the darkness with a metal detector.

Iraq is full of such eccentricities. At the Al-Melad restaurant in Baghdad's central 28 April the truly unforgettable moment of Saddam Hussein's birth in 1937, clients can eat the finest sliced chicken, chips, chickpea sauce, sliced tomatoes and hot fresh Arab bread for £4 - a month's salary for an Iraqi civil servant. So the clientele are Iraqi businessmen, out-of-town farmers and bored intelligence officers. A very young Doris Day crackles over the loudspeaker as the occasional beggar child 'Que sera sera," she sings.



Gunning for Saddam: HMS Nottingham being kept shipshape in Kuwait after patrolling the Gulf to enforce the embargo on Iraq not control." Sohad is 81; and

future's not ours to see ... " But how can Iraqis contemplate the future when they have to live Complex, that date marking by selling their last possessions

in the Soukh Midan? There must have been a hundred ill-kempt men and a few women standing in the drizzle there yesterday, below the pale blue cupola of the Jama'a al-Oushia mosque. At their feet lay the most pitiable things on display: rusting bath fittings and old car parts, torn shoes, moth-eaten rugs, used shirts, secondhand socks and a broken television set lying forlornly in presses his nose to the window, a puddle. A woman in a soiled black chador covering looked up

said. "Our money is worthless only God can helps us." Sohad, the middle-class wife

of a former diplomat whose home overlooks the banks of the great brown greasy Tigris river, still has money. She too doesn't think of the future, although the tape over her living-room windows suggests she bas thought about the next few weeks and months. "In the 1991 raids, all the glass came in, so I put this up about a week ago when we expected the bombings to start. for a while. Whatever will happen, let it happen ... We've flower in my life, a flower from

a long stay in India taught her the Hindu virtue of sublime patience. "If we can't get proper medicine, we will go back to old medicine. I had a knee problem. This friend of ours produced a medicine for me from an old herbal formula that the Chinese invented 2,000 years ago and I drank a cup of it every morn-

ing. Now my knee is better." Sohad's sister is 85, "We live from day to day, from bour to hour." she says. "I am not in Now I'm going to leave it there control, so why bother about it? Now I just want to have a learned to take these things our garden, to look at during the

In the hall of their old home is a spread of sepia photographs of Turkish grandfathers, some in the tunics of the Ottoman army. "This is how we get our strength," Sohad says.

"It comes from our Arab and Georgian and Kurdish and Turkish origins."

Astonishing is the only word to describe the grip which Iraqis have kept over their sanity. A femalé gynaecologist works part-time in a café to maintain her standard of living. She has already sold her family silver

lot. I went to Lebanon and Hol-

travel now but I want to stay here, because this is my country and I love it so much. I could live nowhere else."

Is this some form of fatalism. I ask myself as I hear the same story, over and over again - on my own, unaccompanied by government minders and spooks? Take the old lady who had sold almost all her Baccarat

"I bought these glasses on my first visit to Paris in 1947," she told us. "Now I needed the money, so I said 'to hell with it' Minister who forgot that he was -we had it for a great time and the current EU Council presi-"Before the war I travelled a enjoyed it, so I let it go. For dent in his eagerness to suck up peanuts I sold it. I have only a to Washington.

Rifts open at UN over Baghdad deal

By David Usborne in New York

JUST one day after Kofi Annan, the United Nations Secretary-General, was accorded a hero's welcome in New York for brokering a deal with Iraq that averted military action in the Gulf, diplomatic rifts had surfaced yesterday on how that agreement should be handled by the Security Council.

Britain and the United States are determined that the Council should swiftly adopt a new resolution giving legal blessing to the so-called memorandum of understanding negotiated by Mr Annan on his visit to Baghdad. Russia and China, at least, are less convinced that any resolution is necessary.

Even if some text does emerge from the Council in the new few days, as still seems likely, the debate on what it should contain is likely to be highly fractious, diplomats warned yesterday. "We do not expect this to be plain sailing," one said.

France is expected to resist

the US-UK camp explained. The memorandum, which Mr Annan presented to the Security Council on his return from Baghdad on Tuesday, recommits Iraq to allowing UN inspectors to continue their task of rooting out weapons of mass destruction in the country.

instil the text with the strongest

possible warning to President

Saddam Hussein that any violation of the memorandum's

provisions would result in almost

instantaneous retaliation. While

military strikes would not be ex-

plicit, they would be implied.

Saddam to be this: if you step

out of line on this one, don't ex-

pect a manuscripted letter of

complaint from us, sent on an ocean liner taking three weeks

to get to you." one diplomat in

. ...

ع ^م يَ الْغَنْدِ

"We want the message to

At the same time, however, it establishes new procedures for the inspection of eight sites designated as presidential palaces. Mr Annan agreed that for those sites, the usual Unscom inspectors will be accompanied by diplomats from efforts by Britain and the US to foreign embassies in Baghdad.

'Le Monde' slates Blair as US poodle

By John Lichfield

IN A scathing assault on British policy during the Iraqi crisis. France's most influential newspaper yesterday described Tony Blair as "all too happy" to play Robin to Bill Clinton's Batman and to "jump into the Batmobile".

Jean-Marie Colombani, editor of Le Monde, said in a signed front-page editorial that the European Union was "encumbered" by a British Prime

ambition to take over the leadership of Europe, [Mr Blair] has at the first crisis promptly sunk into the traditional British mould of auxiliary in the American info-war. It was as if Blair-Robin was all too happy to be invited by Clinton-Batman to jump into the Batmobile."

Although a journalistic view. Mr Colombani's tirade is the most visible symptom to date of the great irritation felt in France at Britain's insistence on backing Washington to the hilt in the Iraqi crisis. It also represents the first serious criticism of Mr Blair in the French press, which has until now greeted him as a refreshing alternative to

SMALL CHANGE



With effect from 28 February 1998 the old, larger, heavier 50 pence coins will be withdrawn from circulation.



Springtime in the C 2 for 1 hotel offer INTER-CONTINENTAL.

The Independent and Independent on Sunday have joined forces with Inter-Continental Hotels to offer readers a unique 2 for 1 weekend promotion. Available at a selection of hotels in the UK and Europe, rates for these special weekends include breakfast for 2 each morning and all taxes and service charges. This fantastic 2 for 1 deal, which represents a 50% saving on the usual weekend rates, is available exclusively to Independent readers, and is on offer every Friday, Saturday and Sunday from now right through until the end of April 1998.

Simply collect 4 out of the 7 tokens we will be printing every day until Friday 27th February. Choose the dates that you

want to stay and telephone the Inter-Continental Central Reservation office on 0181 847 2277. Callers should quote The Independent Weekend Promotion' when making their booking. On your arrival at the hotel you should present your tokens in order to qualify. All bookings are subject to avail-

EASTER BONUS

As an extra bonus for Independent readers, these amazing weekend rates will be available throughout the Easter period at the London and Edinburgh hotels. The 2 for 1 deal (or 4 for 2 during Easter) will be on offer for a period of five nights, starting from Thursday 9th April right through to Monday 13th April inclusive.

the Kensington Garden Café,

Hotel Inter-Continental

Located just off Park Lane, overlooking Hyde Park Corner and Buckingham Palace Gardens. Walh 458 elegantly decorated bedrooms and suites, a fabumodern health club and gym, the hotel boasts all the services and facilities you would expect from one of the capital's premier hotels. A brand new Club Inter-Continental executive floor is being

aunched in March. Rate(per room per weekend) £18%

May Fair Inter-Continental

On Stratton Street, this five star deluse hotel is perfect for reaching the Bond Street shops, royal parks, theatres and galleries. It offers superb accommodation and facilities including a stylish, contemporary restaurant, Opus 70, popular cafe, traditional pu and sophisticated piano bar. Its health club boasts a swimming pool, gym, saunas and solarium,

Rate(per room per weekend) £195

token

INTER-CONTINENTAL

In Portman Square in the centre of the West End the hotel. with the Oxford Street just two minutes walk. Re-

Inter-Continental, Edinburgh

cently renovated to the highest standards, the stunning Churchill Inter-Continental boasts luxurious dation, a superb restaurant, Clementines and a new Churchill Bar & Cigar Divan. Guests have the use of a private tennis court just opposite

Rate(per mom per weekend) £189 The Forum Hotel London

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

To participate in the offer you must collect 4 dif-terently numbered tokens from the seven we will recently manager notices from the seven we will print between February 21 and February 27. These takens will be redeemable at any of the inter-Continental and Forum batch issed in The Independent and Independent on Sanday. All Passes shown are per room per weekend (cou-ples for two nights) including tall English breakfast and VAT All backings must be made taking the Inter-Continental Cornel December.

restaurants and bars include the Gloucester Road Deli with its authorite 'New York' atmosphere and The George Inter-Continental

This first class hotel occupies a classic Georgian Building dating from the 18th century. In the beart of the city, its 195 bedrooms and suites enjoy superb views over the city and the Firth of Forth. Dining options include a choice of three restaurants and burs including the recently refurbished Carvers Restaurant, housed in one of the most spectacu-

Perfectly situated close to the shopping area of Kens-ington and Knightshridge, With 27 floors, many

of the hotels 910 bedrooms and suites enjoy superi

Rate(per room per weekend) £129

views over the London skyline. A wide choice of

lar dining halls in Edinburgh. Rate(per room per weekend) £100

The 2 for 1 deal is also available at Inter-Continental and Forum hotels in Brussels. Berlin and Budapest. Special weekend rates are also available to at a selection of other Inter-Continental Hotels in Europe including Paris, Vienna, Rome, Cames and Prague (prices on application).

INDEPËNDENT INDEPENDENT

breaktest and VAT. All handangs must be made-using the Inter-Continental Central Reservation Inter. These special accidend rates for a mini-mum 2 night stay are available on Friday, Nat-arday and Sunday nights from Friday 27 February until April 25 1998 (but melade the Easter period as noted above). Rates are portable on lead currency and do not include trace! This-rates are partial to make the means that mostly must be med in resource commod by med in resource to postly must be present to postly the postly to postly the post postly to post postly the postly to postly the postly to postly the postly to postly the postly to postly the postly the postly to postly the postly to postly the postly rater cannot be used in communition with any other promisings. All reservations are subject to availability.

Each of the hotels in the famous Inter-Continental Hotels and Resorts Group is equipped with the highest level of service and facilities including: superb accommodation, great restaurants, room service, laundry and dry cleaning, in room satellite TV with movies, radio, minibar, direct dial telephone, complemented by the friendly, efficient service you would expect from the world's most glob-

A fantastic choice of locations is available, and each of the participating hotels is perfeetly located for the city's shopping areas, attractions and places of interest

الما المن الاصل

The set of the second second V. .. 25-ं अञ्चलका of Fireday

Contracting" 1 1 Mg · ALTERNATION The Charles and the state of THE PARTY 11 M

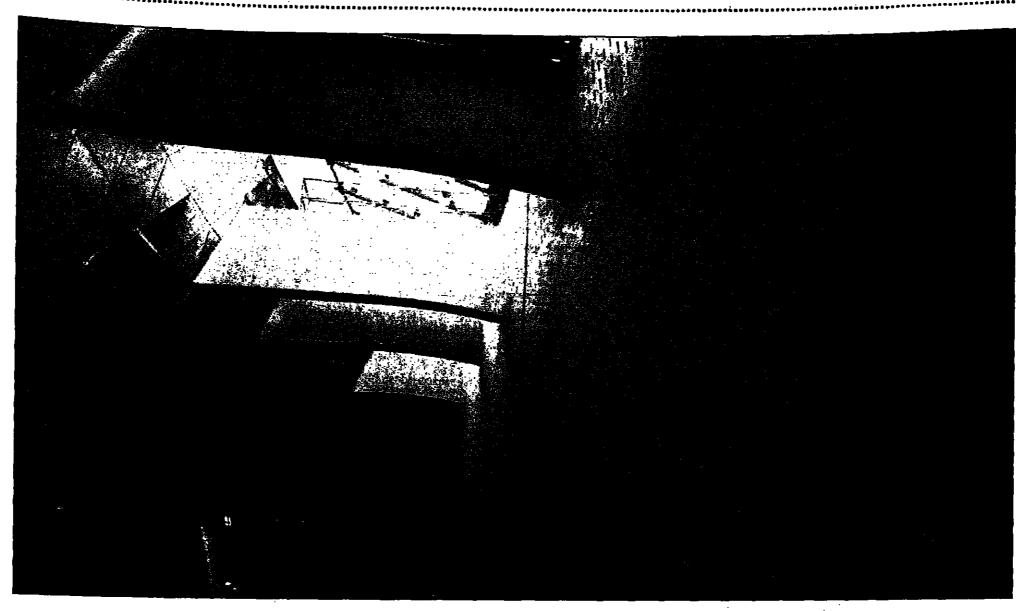
"Pittic"

· FEEL .

onde' slates

as US poodle

They used ploys, they used artifice, and it worked. The London Tube line to the Dome is an extravaganza of the age. Nonie Niesewand hears how architects conquered official meanness to build the stations of their dreams



the brightest: The stations at Southwark, top, and North Greenwich. the stop for the Dome

Photographs: David Rose

Light at the start of the tunnel

delson reassured David Frost on jazz than chamber music". So he his Sunday breakfast show as he chose a team of "rigorous strucdiscussed the Millennium Dome turalists" to endlessly improvise and its junior companion Baby with their designs for 11 stations Dome. "The Jubilee Line Ex- along the route. He believes that tension will be up and running there should be no discordant early next year." You bet it will. notes, but no bland corporate The Government's reputation uniformity either. Even a claushanes upon it, because it will be trophobic can handle the big the main route to the Dome - wide open spaces he envisages New Labour's monument.

Mr Mandelson's reassur- beamed down. ances were needed because (including the staff of this newspaper) by giving them a rapid connection to the centre of London, it also provides London Underground with an opportunity to prove once more chitect at Manchester with Northat it is a great patron of ar- man Foster and worked in schitecture, just as it was during the heyday of the Thirties.

Roland Paoletti, who is responsible for the station project, chitects - they didn't have to be believes that London Under- Londoners but they had to use ground needs to make its mark the city infrastructure

"DON'T worry," Peter Man- in the 21st century, "more like with as much natural light

Integrity is a word he uses a construction of the tube route lot and he likes to remind people is running a year late, because—of his Tuscan roots and the unof signalling problems. Apart finished Florentine churches from the convenience which the that he loves. "If I can't afford new line will bring to those it, I prefer to leave detailing unworking in London Docklands adorned, unfinished. There's a certain rigour to it."

Vigour, robustness, integri-

ty are qualities he admires. Not stylistic flourishes. But drama, yes. Paoletti trained as an ar-Venice with Carla Scarpa. Seven years ago he began the search for London based ar-



The city will pour into Alsop's North Greenwich Station if the anticipated 12 million visitors to the Millennium Dome do arrive. Roland Paoletti doggedly fought to build a really big station here. But that was long before the dome - and all the traffic it would generate - was conceived. You never ever put in an underground like a heart trans-

plant after the development. trains are tiny. These changes Build the underground and let the city come to it."

One huge concourse in pale concrete makes it the biggest underground station in Europe. Jaunty blue-tiled columns take the eye upwards in this cavernous space to the silver bellied roof like a plane fuselage hovering high overhead. By comparison the tunnel for the



in scale are as giddying as adventuring in Wonderland, and as reflective as a looking glass, which is curious because there is no source of natural light. The through it." ticket office is a skewed steel framed window.

Paoletti's brief to the architectural practices who tendered for the job seven years ago was to make sure they let engineering inform their designs. "I remind architects when they get too pansy about detailing that this is a station, not a room. There's a railway running

A latter-day Kublai Khan Xanadu, architect Richard MacCormac from MacCormac bilee Line Extension station ground Richard MacCormac is

like a dome to beam light down funny about the time lapse his 12 metres into caverns mea- station went into, Tardis-like, sureless to man. A half conical from the original commission light well which sticks up above seven years ago. Then, the ground like a ship's funnel Tories saw art in public works beams daylight down into the as squandering of public monsparkling backlit blue glass mezzanine hall designed by Alex Tschenko's brilliant glass wall as Tschenko. Once the computer cladding, which it isn't. By the configured just how 600 glass tri- time Southwark planning comangles could clad an elliptical mittee worried over the halfcone, the architects invented a moon lightwell jutting above spidergrip-like system of fingers ground, the architects had to hold the glass in a steel learnt to describe it as sculpture. frame and allow subtle varia- The architects are most proud tions in the grip. A silk screened of the fact that by saving tunpattern changes from opaque- nelling on a 40-metre stretch ness at ground level to translucency at the top. over in the first six weeks.

Known for their pure white polished plaster like travertine. MacCormac, Jamieson, Prichard cast it on site. Forty lorries drove around casting in one go the swooping drum-like entrance. Tapered steps exaggerate the Indiana Jones scale of this temple to travel. A big cirswopping Southwark for cular glass brick inspectors' booth is modelled on one designed in the Thirties by Jamieson Prichard built his Ju- Hordern for London Under-

ey. So he introduced Alex they saved their fees four times

The popular misconception that "design excellence doesn't come cheap" is unpopular with Paoletti. It grieves him. "Design excellence incorporates economy. Ugly little stations would have cost more. Take the integrity at Westminster between the Houses of Parliament and the Jubilee Line station by Michael Hopkins. It would have been very expensive to plan both buildings separately. His design cohesion makes it absolute.*

Where are the volunteers?

RICHARD Wilson, actor and abour-luvvie, emerged from tie downtown clip joint in Lavao, the Philippines' second cty. "I've just been propositimed by a sweet girl," he remarked, as officials from Viluntary Service Overseas, th UK charity, ushered Wilson avay from a street-side conbes of the den of iniquity. Te star was to meet more of th women "GROs" (guest relaions officers - strippers and postitutes) who run a selfhlp organisation and whom

WO is helping. The support of people like Vilson - best known as the curnudgeonly Victor Meldrew of Ce Foot in the Grave - and the as a watershed in his life. pblicity which they can attact - is vital to the VSO in its 4th birthday year. For today te organisation is to announce tat it faces a chronic shortage

c the right sort of volunteers. In some skills areas their numbers have halved in two ears. Mr Blair's message about aring Britons seems to be alling on deaf ears, at least mongst people of "prime" vorking age - the mid-twenties o mid-thirties - who, the Charties Aid Foundation notes, are not volunteering as they used to. VSO in part blames the "Feel Great" society. But it is not just selfishness which is cited by Simon Watts, its spokesman. "We do live in a Me-first society." he says, "But actually VSO has a part in that. It could be self-interest which would bring people to VSO. People do work with 10 times the responsibili-

ty they'd get in the UK, work-

The Me First generation apparently doesn't do it for others. Richard D North reports on a recruiting drive by VSO

the time. We need to get that their forerunners. They are ofmessage across to everyone, including husiness."

Another problem VSO has vesation with the amiable male to contend with is that younger people simply have not heard of it. Yet VSO is held in much affection by its past alumni, amongst them high-flyers such as James Lowden, group finance director of Blue Circle, which made VSO one of its charities of the year in 1996 and 1997. Jon Snow, of Channel 4 News, cites his VSO experience The current generation of

nearly 2,000 volunteers also

ing unsupervised for much of needs to be more skilled than Wilson met volunteering all ten in mid-career, and profes-Lewis, VSO's head of placements, "Years ago, say within education, volunteers could go overseas who weren't qualified teachers. Now, as a broad generalisation, we provide skills which cannot be found in-country. So we don't just send foresters but forestry lecturers."

VSO needs people who are at the stage in their lives when they are likely to be at the height of their careers, or already have

the more remarkable. Elles Santegoets, in her 40s, was resional. According to Fiona cruited through VSO's Dutch offshoot. She gave up working with prostitutes in Holland to work in Davao. "It's like there's this little empty space that you want to fill up," she said. "It's as though I have found the last missing piece of my life." Like many VSO workers,

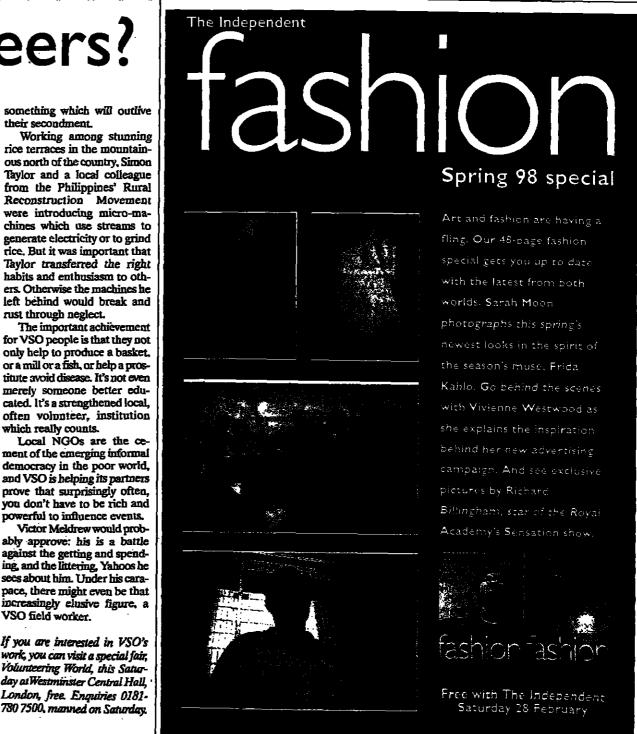
Santegoets is in the Philippines at the invitation of VSO's NG0 for VSO people is that they not (non-governmental organisaonly help to produce a basket, or a mill or a fish, or help a prostion) partner, which pays half her salary. The workers' stavs titute avoid disease. It's not even merely someone better edutheir own families. That makes are hardly ever longer than the strong characters whom two years. They need to build cated. It's a strengthened local,

often volunteer, institution which really counts. Local NGOs are the cement of the emerging informal democracy in the poor world, and VSO is helping its partners prove that surprisingly often, you don't have to be rich and powerful to influence events. Victor Meldrew would probably approve: his is a battle against the getting and spending, and the littering, Yahoos he sees about him. Under his carapace, there might even be that

rust through neglect.

If you are interested in VSO's work, you can visit a special fair, Volunteering World, this Saturday at Westminster Central Hall, London, free. Enquiries 0181-780 7500, manned on Saturday.

VSO field worker.





Richard Wilson with Elles Santegoets, left, and hostess Photograph: Glynn Griffiths

Friends: the new family

Once it was mum who was always there for you. Now it's more likely to be a network of friends, says Vanessa Thorpe

WHEN the telephone rings after 10.30pm most women sense it must be one of only four or five people on the other end of the line. A sister? Maybe. A lover? If you are lucky. A mother? Probably not at that time of night.

Much more likely it is a close female friend: someone calling to tell you that they have split up with their boyfriend again or locked themselves out of their flat, or perhaps simply that Carry On Camping has just started on BBC1. Such friendships are about intimacy and

are spread far and wide, and marriages fragment so easily. Erika Reed, a 32-year-old solicitor, is nurtured by her 10-year friendship with

her married friend Jane Mee.

trust and are being increasingly relied upon

to sustain people in an age when families

"I was very ill one night and so I rang Jane at about 3am." she recalls. "I wanted to ask her what she thought was wrong and told her all my symptoms. She was very supportive and even came round to take me to the doctors the next morning. When you live on your own, the fact that she came round to make sure I went was great."

Since the huge popularity of the American sitcoms Seinfeld and Friends, with their idealised picture of upfront camaraderie and knowing banter between pals, the status of platonic friendships has reached an all-time high. You may fall in and out of romantic relationships, these shows imply, but you had better keep those old buddies on side if you want to survive.

Tonight strong female bonds enjoyed by people like Erika and Jane will be celebrated on the small screen in the first installment of a three-part BBC drama called Real Women. Written by Susan Oudot and taken from her best-selling novel, it charts the lives of five former school friends and puts their relationships with each other said to me, 'Every story that we've ever ly, husbands and work are all purely in- true."

Anna and stars alongside Pauline Quirke, a spare set of keys and waters her plants Gwenyth Strong, Michelle Collins and Les- and feeds her cat whenever she is away. ley Manville, found the script reflected her "Having Jane around gives me a certain own experience. "Friendship is about amount of freedom. It is not the kind of each other's chums to find both jobs and yet for Rebecca Cavanagh, a 32-year-old Real Women', BBC1 9.30pm



Erika (left) on Jane: "I can be stroppy with Jane because I think we are close enough; when I see my family there is never a cross word." Andrew Buuman

don't think it matters how far apart you are. I don't see some of my friends for ages, but when we get together it is as if time hasn't passed."

The characters are all modelled on elements of real people in the writer's circle. One is in an unfulfilling marriage, one is a career woman, another is a "good time girl", one is hoping to have a child, and the fifth, played by Manville, is a closet lesbian. "Real Women is inspired by lots of people I know," says Oudot, "One friend right in the foreground. For once, fami- told each other is in the book,' which is

The actress Francis Barber who plays from her London flat, it is Jane who keeps is never a cross word."

she knows I will do the same for her." What is more, Erika says she would not

even have her flat in the first place were it not for her friendship with Jane. "When I was looking for somewhere to buy, she was the person that I would turn to for approval. Buying a flat is a very big thing and if your family were close by they would come and have a look with you." Erika feels that because she no longer sees her family in an everyday way she now enjoys that sort of relationship with her best friends. "I can be stroppy with Jane because I think we are close enough. I will actually say if I'm a bit annoyed, where-With Erika's family 200 miles away as when I see my family these days there have to nurture your friends a bit more."

> A supportive circle of women inevitably expands to include friends of friends too. Jane and Erika have helped

commitment and loyalty," says Barber. "I thing that you could ask anyone to do, but practical solutions to smaller scale dilem-book editor, it is crucial that a friend should mas such as the name of a good plumber.

Jane and her husband may move away from London soon, but the prospect of leaving such a support system of friends worries her. "My friends have more to do with my life than my family and therefore I don't have to go through endless explanations," she says. "Friends are more up to date with what is happening."

Like Erika, however, she is still emotionally close to her family and has a long-term licence to behave a little temperamentally with them. "You are more careless with your relationship with your family," she admits. "While I suppose you

The modern emphasis on personal happiness rather than on family duty looks likely to continue to steer people away from daily involvement with their relatives,

offer more than bland reassurance. "You don't need a friend who is as judgemental as a family member might be, but you don't want someone who is accepting of everything.."

Rebecca, like Lesley Manville's character in Real Women, has recently decided to tell close friends about a new gay relationship. Telling friends first, she says. made it easier to talk about it with her family. "When I first got together with Annie I knew I could tell my close friends straight away, while with my family - even my sisters - I was not quite so sure."

With all the benefits of sisterhood, of course, come the headaches. Women, unlike men, must never forget their close friends' birthdays. And then there is the fraught question of who to nominate for your BT best friend telephone discount.

Ambridge claims its latest victim

You could tell John Archer had it coming to him. It wasn't his affair with a single mother and a recently crankedup social life - admittedly more spoken about than actually heard on air - that cursed him. Because it is not moral retribution Archers characters need worry about - it is moving centre stage that gets the Tippex hovering over their name on scripts.

The character of John has recently been ending the show moaning about the state of his life - and ending the show is always dangerous in Borcestershire. When a character is central to the main plot strand you can almost start humming the theme tune before it kicks in because you know they will be given some heavily portentous line to end the episode.

John and Tony Archer have for weeks been arguing about "fixing the tractor". Real Archers aficionados should have guessed that this would be the instrument of death. Although I suppose given the soap's setting he was unlikely to be hit by a tube train.

The other angel of death on the show is Shula. You can almost guarantee that whoever soppy Shula is clinking glasses with and whispering sweet nothings to on New Year's Eve will not make it through the lambing season.

They don't always die like Mark Hebden of course, but they'll be off out of the series. In fact most of the women have the capacity to turn perfectly pleasant male characters into wife-beaters or bankrupt fraudsters.

This is why I love The Archers. The insufferably twee characters and the Identikit middle-class female voices are an irrelevance compared with the joy of the show's dangerous undercurrents. But this is an acquired taste. You can only learn to love its black heart by getting to know its rhythms and nuances.

For starters you have to get through the broadcasting world's most surreally unappealing pre-trailer. Only on Radio 4 could a continuity announcer try to tempt you to listen to a programme by saying, "And now. In the shop Pat is talking to Debbie ..."

Like televising archaeology - as in Time Team - this is all so British it hurts. And now that it is getting more exciting - "It used always to be about cows getting their udders stuck in a cattle grid," said the actor who played John - we have even more portentous lines to look forward to.

Paul McCann

DILEMMAS

My nephew is overweight and his parents feed him on burgers



VIRGINIA **IRONSIDE**

Eva's worried about her delightful, overweight nephew. His mother never eats vegetables, his father doesn't believe in fruit, they live on a diet of fat and starchy foods and go to McDonald's every Saturday - but she doesn't want to say anything because she gets on well with the family

THE INDEPENDENT PERSONALISED STATIONERY
Unique, quality packs from only £7.95 inc P&P Each pack contains a minimum of 40 printed sheets, 20 plain, 60 mini address labels and 40 self-seal envelopes. Choose from two type styles and print positions. Available in both A4 and A5 size. Or the uttimate pack of A4 and A5 size paper with matching correspondence cards – 270 pieces, consisting of the addition of an extra 60 labels and 50 correspondence All are supplied in sturdy PVC storage wallets. STATIONERY PACK AND ADDRESS DETAILS 颦 墅 Pack A AS also at D 45 Pack 8 A4 step at 015.95 PAYMENT/DELIVERY DETAILS TO URDER PLEASE FAX Or phase debit my ACCESS VISA Card account with the sum of Σ **🖳** 01753 648810 using your Credit Card and completed coupon OR POST' completed coupon with crossers cheque or postal orders to: THE INDEPENDENT PERSONALISED STATIONERY SET OFFER PO Box 261, Slough SL2 3RU 12 01753 642234 (Enquiries) Send To: THE INDEPENDENT PERSONALISED STATIONERY SET OFFER PO Box 251, Sough SL2 3RU Tel: 01753 6422M Fac: 01753 8488M Newspaper Publishing HLC Registr England No. 1908967

I have a friend who is very health-conscious. She forbids her children sweets, or chooslate biscuits, she insists they take sticks of celery in their lunchbox to school instead of crisps, and feeds them baked potatoes, salads, beansprouts, pasta and chicken. No red meat. When the children come round they gorge themselves on all the chocolate biscuits, sweets. crisps and burgers that I keep I have another friend who

panders to her daughters' foodie whims, to such an extent that everyone in the family has different meals at different times. One is a vegetarian and has to be cooked a special meal every evening; one is allergic to wheat; the mother's husband is on a cholesterol-free diet, and she never eats tomatoes, peppers, any drink with additives ... the list is endless. When they come round they have to bring their own rice-biscuits, organic bread, non-dairy spread - indeed they are impossible to have to lunch as a family. And another little boy I know used to come round to my house for suppor and insist on his fish fingers being pecled and then he left the fish and only ate the crumbs on the outside.

These families are indeed well on the way to getting health and dietary problems in the future. They are also going to develop social problems. finding it hard to go out to restaurants, or to friends. They have made such a to-do about food that their lives are ruled by their diet. The children are heading for all kinds of cating

Compared with these families, Eva's nephew, and his farnily, seems to be behaving in the most normal way, just eating what they like. Never did my son crave sweets - because they were freely available to him. Henry VIII never ate veg-

etables and though he was a bit of a fatty it didn't seem to affect his general health or his exuberance about life. And anyway, every day we read contradictory evidence about what foods are good for us and what aren't. Margarine is good for you; margarine gives you cancer; drink is bad for you but a couple of glasses of red wine keeps heart disease away. Recently it was reported that the chemical additives sprayed on some tomatoes can help keep men's prostate problems at bay, or something. Salads are good but some pre-washed

supermarket salads contain salmonella. Of course Eva could ask her nephew round and introduce him to the charms of organic oranges, free-range courgettes, wild salmon and corn-fed basil, but I suspect he would just say "Ugh!" as any normal child does to food it's never seen before. But frankly, what the hell business is it of hers whether her nephew is overweight or not? They sound like a very jolly family if they all go out for a meal together on a Saturday night. And as for that ghastly snobbishness about McDonaid's ~ a double-decker and a glass of milk is a pretty healthy

I often pop in there for a delicious cheeseburger and orange juice when I'm on the run despite the faces made by friends who wrongly imagine I'm helping myself to a diet of BSE and cancer germs in a bun. Just because the McDonald's clientele is made up of people on lower incomes because the food is so cheap doesn't mean the food's not good or tasty.

Eva should keep her trap shut and thank God that her nephew is "delightful". And perhaps she should ask herself over one Saturday night on their McDonald's outing and find out exactly what she's been missing.

WHAT. READERS SAY

Try dropping a few hints It's always difficult voicing criticism of friends and relatives. The desire not to offend can be so great that you keep your mouth shut inappropriately, and later, kick yourself for your cowardice. The bottom line is to consider which would be worse - risking a moment's pique by mentioning your nephew's diet, or silently watching him turn into an obese child and portly adult, with all the attendant risk, from social isola-

tion to eating disorders. Criticisms are better taken when veiled as innocent remarks, and stripped of any blame. Instead of slating your sister's cooking, try introducing the child to new and exotic fruits with the chance remark that you read somewhere we should be cating five pieces of fruit or vegetable a day. You could tell your sister you're on a health kick as you've just read up on the health risks of obesity. If all else fails, you could be direct but calm and tactful. Dr Leyla Sunai

So what's the problem? Eva takes the biscuit. She is worried about her nephew eating the wrong foods and being

plump; she claims that the child's parents have a peculiar attitude towards diet. If that is really breaking her heart as she says, then I have nothing but sympathy for her. Her nephew, apart from being plump, seems to be in good hands and I recommend that Eva keeps her mouth buttoned up. Martin Russell

Newcastle upon Tyne

Introduce healthy habits

Tell them casually about your efforts to improve your fitness and enting habits. You could ask your sister/brother-in-law for some moral support by going on the same diet or attending the gym with you. You could take your nephew on cycle rides; take up tennis with him, find out about sporting activities he could become involved in. Ask them round to yours for supper occasionally, or better still, do a cookery course together and then take it in turns periodically to prepare family suppors. By setting an example when they are in your company, the message may filter through without causing offence. Gently let slip a few white lies: about your friend's son whose doctor warned he'd he wearing dentures by the time he was 20 if he continued to drink cola ... Drastic maybe, but in the light of the growing evidence of the link hetween diet and disease,

almost any measure should be

taken if it looks like it could have some effect. Failing all that, be blunt.

Diet is dangerous territory As I understand it, children's di ctary needs are different from adults'. Apparently some chil dren are becoming malnour ished because their parents feed them an adult-style, low fat diet in the mistaken belie that it is good for them. Also younger and younger children are developing anorexic ten dencies, believing themselves t he fat, when in fact they are jus about to put on a growth sput when all "excess" fat will b

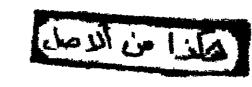
evenly redistributed. Given these issues I would he extremely hesitant to star trying to interfere in a child diet unless I were properl qualified to comment. I would particularly urge Eva not t comment in the children

hearing. I also think any interference would be almost certain to cause conflict with the parent - if they are as well educated as Eva seems to think, they can hardly be unaware of the issues surrounding diet. This may all be "parental policy", either to allow the children to develop their own preferences, or even to preserve a quiet life. Alison Keys,

NEXT WEEK'S DILEMMA

I suffer from the most terrible nightmares. I dread going to sleep because I know I will dream about tortured animals, child abuse. the most horrible things you can think of. I often wake up terrified, and the dreams often linger with me all day, far more intense than the reality of life. Is there any way I can stop them? I don't think I'm depressed: I'm normally cheerful; but why do I have these sinister dreams? And what can I do about them?

Letters are welcome, and everyone who has a suggestion quoted will be sent a bouquet from Interflora. Send comments and suggestions to me at the Features Department, 'The Independent', I Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5Dl. (fax: 0171-293 2182), by Tuesday morning. And if you have a dilemma of your own that you would like to share, please



ir Bernam

EIRTHS. ARRIAGES · DEATHS

Henny Youngman

"TAKE my wife - please!" The of his lifetime, which was long, laugh, four words of fun that became the trademark of Henny Youngman and will probably be engraved on his tumbstone. Not the world's shortest joke: that honour belongs to England and Moore Marrion, the garrulous old gaffer of the Will Hay films. In Oh Mr Porter (1937) Marriott as a toothless ticket seller slings up his shutter. shouts "Next train's gone!".

and slams it down again. But Henny Youngman was no character comedian; his entire showbiz life consisted of standing stiffly at a microphone and snapping out short gags at a rate of knots. This may be why he was great in vaudeville, a joy on radio, OK in the early days of television, but not much cop to the cinema. Late in life he

he had only one movie to his record, a 70-minute "B" feature from the Poverty Row production company Monogram.

li was called 4 Wave, a Wac and a Murine (1944), a title which meant something to wartime America but little to the UK. A wealthier company would have changed it, but such expensive tinkering was unheard of at Monogram. The film's stars were Elyse Knox. Sally Eilers and Alan Dinehart, with Youngman billed lower film has not been shown since its original release in 1944. I can recall being quite impressed by Youngman's quick-fire gugging. although his somewhat deadpan delivery was obviously unsuited

filling a small role in Martin Scorsese's GoodFellas (1992). Like another creative crack-

er of one-liners, Bob Hope, Youngman was born in England, in the Liverpool of 1906. His birth gave him one of his first jokes: "I was so ugly the doctor slapped my mother!" When he was six months old his family moved to the United States, settling in Brooklyn. His father forced him to learn the violin, an instrument he was to use in his act all through his life. Like Jack Benny in the US down the cast-list. Although the and Ted Ray in England. Youngman fiddled but little, using the instrument to punctuate his gags. "I was such a lousy fiddler people laughed at me so I became a comedian."

Youngman came to radio in

for every major American comedian from Red Skelton to Woody Allen.

It was Allen who would later reawaken interest in Youngman by protesting against being labelled as an intellectual comedian and claiming he should be thought of as a disciple of Henny Youngman. This style was of snappy gags following one another like explosions from a machine-gun. Walter Winchell, the newspaper columnist gave Youngman his first advertising-bill matter: "King of the One-Liners".

Youngman shot to popular fame on the Kate Smith Show, a pre-war radio series which starred the popular if overweight "Songbird of the South" in the movies. In fact for most made a film comeback by of touring through the famous Following Youngman's year on the late Thirties following years with new comedy discoveries.

"Borscht Belt", training-ground the show came Abbott & show could run from five min-Costello, a pair of crosstalk comics who shot to greater fame in their many wartime

comedy films. After the Second World War came the rising tide of television, and Youngman was chosen as one of several hosts for Texaco Star Theatre (1948) including Morey Amsterdam (remembered from The Dick Van Dyke Show) and Milton Berle. They competed for the post of regular host and Berle won, becoming American television's first great star.

In 1955 Youngman attained titular stardom at least with The Henry and Rocky Show. Rocky was Graziano, the exmiddleweight boxing champion, and the series ran live every Wednesday night following that week's boxing match. Thus the

utes to 30, according to how long the match had lasted.

Other television series included a game show called Make Me Laugh (1958) in which Youngman and several fellow professional comedians tried to make each other laugh within one minute. He also made the return trip to England around this time to star at the London Palladium. In 1975 there was a series called Joe and Dad, starring a dancer and her father Rav Heatherton, with Youngman very much in support. In 1978 came The Rah Rah Show starring Chuck Barris, who had created that successful series for untalented wannabes, The Gong Show. This contained a mixture of venerable professionals in-

cluding the be-bop singer Slim

Gaillard, the hi-de-ho Cab Cal-

loway, and the ha-ha merchant Henny Youngman. It was not a great success.

Perhaps the oddest assignment of his entire comedic career was when Youngman was hired as the Dial-a-Joke voice for the New York Telephone Company. This was back in 1974, and Youngman clocked up a record of 300,000 calls a day.

His wife Sadie, who had accidentally inspired the ad-lib that was to become Youngman's catchphrase, as well as the title of his autobiography, died in 1987.

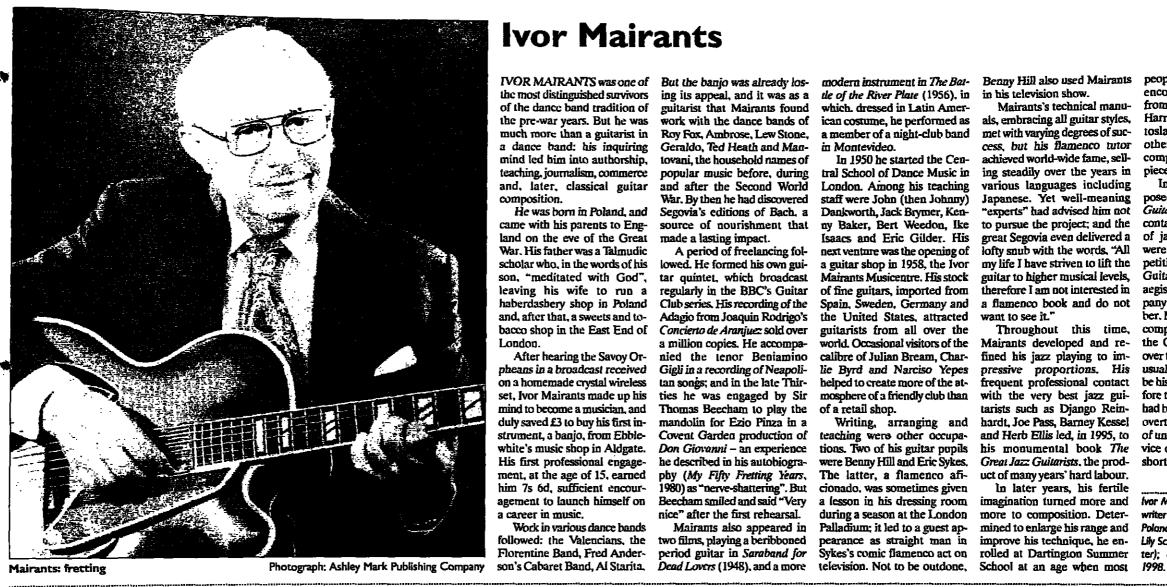
"I miss my wife's cooking," he said, "as often as I can!" But perhaps the most outrageous gag he ever staged was a public celebration of his 91st birthday. He invited newspaper and television reporters to a posh restaurant to witness the read-

Youngman: 'King of

the One-Liners' ing of his last will and testament. As Ed Sullivan, America's top television presenter, once commented, "Henny never changed his gags, only his audiences.

Denis Gifford

Henry (Henny) Youngman, comedian; bom Liverpool 16 March 1906; married (one son, one daughter); died New York 24 February 1998.



Ivor Mairants

IVOR MAIRANTS was one of But the banjo was already losthe most distinguished survivors ingits appeal, and it was as a of the dance band tradition of the pre-war years. But he was much more than a guitarist in a dance band: his inquiring mind led him into authorship, tovani, the household names of teaching, journalism, commerce popular music before, during and, later, classical guitar composition.

He was born in Poland, and came with his parents to England on the eve of the Great War. His father was a Talmudic scholar who, in the words of his son, "meditated with God", leaving his wife to run a haberdashery shop in Poland and, after that, a sweets and tobacco shop in the East End of

After hearing the Savoy Orpheans in a broadcast received on a homemade crystal wireless set, Ivor Mairants made up his mind to become a musician, and duly saved £3 to buy his first instrument, a banjo, from Ebblewhite's music shop in Aldgate. His first professional engagement, at the age of 15, earned him 7s 6d, sufficient encourrement to launch himself a career in music.

Work in various dance bands followed: the Valencians, the Florentine Band, Fred Ander-

guitarist that Mairants found work with the dance bands of Roy Fox, Ambrose, Lew Stone, Geraldo, Ted Heath and Manand after the Second World War. By then he had discovered Segovia's editions of Bach, a source of nourishment that

made a lasting impact. A period of freelancing followed. He formed his own guitar quintet, which broadcast regularly in the BBC's Guitar Club series. His recording of the Adagio from Joaquin Rodrigo's Conciento de Aranjuez sold over a million copies. He accompanied the Jenor Benjamino Gigli in a recording of Neapolitan songs; and in the late Thirties he was engaged by Sir Thomas Beecham to play the mandolin for Ezio Pinza in a Covent Garden production of Don Giovanni - an experience he described in his autobiograpby (My Fifty Fretting Years, 1980) as "nerve-shattering". But nice" after the first rehearsal.

two films, playing a beribboned period guitar in Saraband for

modern instrument in The Battle of the River Plate (1956), in in his television show. which, dressed in Latin American costume, he performed as a member of a night-club band

In 1950 he started the Central School of Dance Music in London. Among his teaching staff were John (then Johnny) Dankworth, Jack Brymer, Kenny Baker, Bert Weedon, Ike Isaacs and Eric Gilder. His next venture was the opening of a guitar shop in 1958, the Ivor Mairants Musicentre. His stock of fine guitars, imported from Spain, Sweden, Germany and the United States, attracted guitarists from all over the world. Occasional visitors of the calibre of Julian Bream, Charlie Byrd and Narciso Yepes helped to create more of the atmosphere of a friendly club than

in Montevideo.

Writing, arranging and teaching were other occupations. Two of his guitar pupils were Benny Hill and Eric Sykes. The latter, a flamenco aficionado, was sometimes given pearance as straight man in

of a retail shop.

Benny Hill also used Mairants Mairants's technical manu-

als, embracing all guitar styles, met with varying degrees of success, but his flamenco tutor achieved world-wide fame, selling steadily over the years in various languages including Japanese. Yet well-meaning "experts" had advised him not to pursue the project; and the great Segovia even delivered a lofty snub with the words, "All my life I have striven to lift the guitar to higher musical levels. therefore I am not interested in a flamenco book and do not

want to see it." Throughout this time, Mairants developed and refined his jazz playing to impressive proportions. His frequent professional contact with the very best jazz guitarists such as Django Reinhardt, Joe Pass, Barney Kessel and Herb Ellis led, in 1995, to Great Jazz Guitarists, the prod-short of his 90th birthday.

uct of many years' hard labour. In later years, his fertile people are happy to retire. The encouragement he received from Peter Maxwell Davies, Harrison Birtwistle, Witold Lutoslawski, Hans Keller and others resulted in some accomplished and attractive pieces for classical guitar.

In his late eighties, he composed Jazz Sonatas for Solo Guitar, classical in style but containing prominent elements of jazz. Two of the sonatas were set pieces in the first competition for the Ivor Mairants Guitar Award, held under the aegis of the Worshipful Company of Musicians last December. Mairants, a member of the company and a Freeman of the City of London, presided over the panel of judges with his usual imperturbability; it was to be his last public appearance before the cancer against which he had battled with fortitude finally overtook him, after a long life of unremitting work in the serhis monumental book The vice of music and five months

Colin Cooper

Beecham smiled and said "Very a lesson in his dressing room imagination turned more and liver Mairants, guitarist, composer during a season at the London more to composition. Deter- writer and teacher: born Rypin, Mairants also appeared in Palladium: it led to a guest apmined to enlarge his range and Polond 8 July 1908: morried 1931 improve his technique, he en- Lily Schneider (one son, one daugh-Sykes's comic flamenco act on rolled at Dartington Summer terl; died London 20 February

from his own experience as a

Alan Campbell

professional diplomat.

Sir Bernard Ledwidge

decades of his life having spent much of it in the Diplomatic Service, ending his career as

a

rgers

grisser et in

ing out to the

Specifical Reservoir

ambassador to Israel. Ledwidge spent the first 10 years of his career either in India or concerned with Indian affairs. After graduating with distinction at King's College. Cambridge, he joined the India Office in 1939 as an assistant principal. He went out to India, first in the Royal Artillery and then in the Indian Army, in ahich he served until the end of the Second World War. It was only in 1948 that, after returning to the India Office and acting for a time as private secretary to the Permanent Under-Secretary, he was first seconded

and then transferred to the

Foreign Service. His first appointment in the service was as consul at St Louis, Missouri, but from the mid-Fifties onwards he gravitated towards the mainstream of Foreign Office posts. He was political adviser to the General Officer Commanding in Berlin at a critical period from 1956 to 1960 and he then became head of the Western Department of the Foreign Office. 1962-65. responsible for policy for the

whole of Western Europe. From there he went to Paris as minister (number two) in the Embassy, first under Patrick Reilly and later for one year under Christopher Soames. He

BERNARD LEDWIDGE be- to the newly established Com- was appointed ambassador to came a writer in the last two monwealth Relations Office Finland in 1969, his first post as

Head of Mission. I first met Ledwidge when I took over from him as Head of Foreign Office in 1965, I then followed him to Paris in 1967 and served with him there for two years until we both went off to our respective embassies. In his early fifties, he was a tall, heavy man with a somewhat ponderous manner and speech. His French, though good, was guttural to the point of being Teutonic. His manner was far from smooth, indeed rather on the rough side. But he had charm, wit and a formidable intellect. He was also something

of a bon viveur (listing his hob-

bies as talking and drinking).

It came as a surprise to me and to many of Ledwidge's friends and colleagues when his first marriage broke up at the end of his time in Paris. His first the Western Department of the wife, Anne, had been a loyal consort and was the mother of two attractive children. After his divorce he married Flora Groult, a well-known French writer who had distinguished herself in the Resistance, and it was she who accompanied him as ambassadress to Finland and after to his final post, Tel Aviv.

Ledwidge's career as a writer after his retirement from the Diplomatic Service was varied and also successful. His first book, Frontiers (1979), was a well-written novel based on his experience in India. He then assisted by his very talented secembarked on something alto-

gether different and very ambitious, a biography of de Gaulle, published in 1982, the first to be written in English. De Gaulle was an important book which drew on new documentary sources and comprises a full and well-indeed assessment of the general's achievements. It was widely acclaimed, especially in France and in Canada.

A further less substantial book followed in 1984, De Gaulle et les Américains, written in French and based largely on US archives. Finally there was yet another kind of work (again in French): Sappho, la première voix de femme (1987).

In these literary activities Ledwidge was encouraged and ond wife, Flora. They lived

partly in Paris and partly in London and both continued writing until Ledwidge's health deteriorated seriously in the early Nineties.

At one time in his career

Ledwidge may have felt aggrieved that, because of his belated entry into the Foreign Service, he had lagged behind others less able than himself. However I think the Foreign Office soon recognised his merits; he was rewarded at the end of his career with the important embassy to Israel, as well as a knighthood. He might perhaps have aspired to even more prestigious posts such as the Hague and perhaps still more as a or even Bonn but others were

justifiably proud of his achieve-

judged more suitable.



Ledwidge: intellect

ments both in the public service writer. His best book, De Gaulle, owed much of its Bernard Ledwidge could be merit to knowledge of the international scene derived

William Bernard John Ledwidge, diplomat and writer: born London 9 November 1915; Private Secretary to the Permanent Under-Secretary, India Office 1946; Secretary, Frontier Area Committee of Inquiry, Burma 1947; British Consul, St. Louis 1949-52; First Secretary, Kabul 1952-56; Political Adviser, British Military Government, Berlin 1956-61; CMG 1964, KCMG 1974; Minister, Paris 1965-69; Ambassador to Finland 1969-72, to Israel 1972-75;

Chairman, United Kingdom Com-

mittee for Unicef 1976-89; married

1948 Anne Kingsley (one son, one

daughter; marriage dissolved 1970),

1970 Flora Groult; died London 20

February 1998.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS

BUSH: Geolfrey, composer, died peacefully at home, 24 February 1998, Private funeral, No flowers. 1998. Private tuneral, No tiowers.

CANTU: On Monday 23 February.
Yolande, died in hospital after a gal-lam fight against cancer. A funeral
mass will be celebrated at Notre
Dame de France, Leicester Square,
Monday 2 March, 7pm, with inter-ment in France.

Monday 2 March. 7pm, with interment in France.

LYONS: Stuart, died pencefully on Monday 23 February. He will be missed very much by his wife Joan, and all his friends, Funeral to be at Hanworth Crematorium, Hourislow Road, on Monday 2 March, at 11,15am.

Announcements for Gazette BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS may be telephoned to 0971-293 2012 (24-hour answering machine 0171-293 2011) or fused to 0171-293 2010, and are charged at 44.50 a Ene (VAT extra).

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS

Changing of the Guard

Birthdays

Lord Bridge of Harwich, a former Lord of Appeal in Ordinary, 81; Mr Peter Carter-Ruck, solicitor, 84; Mr Johnny Cash, singer, 66: Sir Peter Cazalet. deputy chairman. GKN.
69: Mr Antoine Fais Domino,
singer. 70: Mr David Edgar, playwright, 50; Sir Donald Farquharson. a former Lord Justice of Appeal, 70; Mr Michael Foster MP, 52; Dr Basil Greenhill, writer and nautical au-thority. 78: Miss Emma Kirkhy, soprano. 49. Professor Noreen Murray. Professor of Molecular Genetics. Edinburgh University, 63; Sir Michael Perty, former chairman of Unilever, 64; Mr Tony Selby, actor, 60; Miss Sandie Shaw, singer, 51; Mr Everton Weekes, cricketer, 73.

Anniversaries

Births: Anthony Ashley Cooper, third Earl of Shaftesbury, philosopher and writer, 1671: Victor-Marie Hugo, writer, 1802; Evelyn Baring, first Earl of Cromer, statesman and diplomat. 1841: William Frederick Cody ("Buffels Dall'), chempan, 1846: Marganet 1841: William Frederick Cody ("Buf-falo Bill"), showman, 1846: Margaret, Leighton, actress, 1922. Deaths: Roger II, King of Sicily, 1154; Man-fred, King of Naples and Sicily, died in battle 12ft; Alexander Goddes, hibited griffer and pour 1807. John hiblical critic and poet. 1802: John Philip Kemble, actor-manager, 1823; Richard Jordan Gailing, inventor of the Galling gun. 1903; Caran d'Ache (Emmanuel Poiré), illustrator, 1909; Sir Harry Lander (MacLennan), co-median, 1950; Sir Patrick Gardiner Hastings lawyer and politician, 1952. Fernandei (Fernand Contandin), acfor and comedian, 1971. On this day: 20,100 people were killed after an earthquake in Lisbon, 1531; the Bank of England issued the first one-

nound note, 1797; Napoleon Bona parte escaped from Elba, 1815; Rus sia annexed Poland, 1832: the Grand National steeplechase was first run, Aintree, 1839; the first colour film, called Kinemacolor, was shown before an audience at the Palace Theatre. Shaftesbury Avenue, London, 1909; a strike of coal-miners took place in Britain, 1912; the French transport ship Provence II was suck in the Mediterranean, with the loss of 930 lives, 1916; Winston Churchill announced that Britain had produced its own atomic bomb, 1952; diplomatic relations between Israel and Egypt were established, 1980; the first London performance of the musical The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas was staged, 1981. Today is the Feast Day of St Alexander of Alexandria, St Nestor of Magydus, St Porphyry of Gaza and St Victor or Vittre the

Lectures

National Gallery: Stella Gambling, "Horses (iv): Géricault, A Horse Frightened by Lightning", lpm. Victoria and Albert Museum: Curistina Brown, "Fakes", 2.30pm. Tare Gallery: Catherine Lever, "All or Nothing at All? Minimalist Art of

the 1960s", Ipm. British Museum: Chris Collard, Prometheus and Hermes; two gods on the Greek stage", 1.15pm. National Portrait Gallery: Susar Morris, "Duchess, or Milkmaid?",

Gresham College, Barnard's Inn Hall, London EC1: Professor Ton Cannon, "Education for Enterprise just hardcore writing codes", Ipm; The Most Rev Richard Holloway, "Negotiating the Ethical Minefield: what's your poison?", 5.30pm.

Authority could not claim absolute privilege S v London Borough of Newham; Court of Appeal (Lord Woolf, Master of the Rolls, Lady

LAW REPORT: 26 FEBRUARY 1998

Chadwick) 24 February 1998 A LOCAL authority could not claim absolute privilege in an action for defamation brought by an employee in respect of information about him sent by the authority to the Department of Health for inclusion in its index of persons unsuitable for work with children.

lustice Butter-Sloss and Lord lustice

The Court of Appeal dismissed the appeal of the London Borough of Newham against the decision of Mr Justice Popplewell on a preliminary issue in defamation proceedings brought against it by the respondent.

The respondent, S, had been employed by the authority as a social worker since 1993, and until October 1995 had worked with children up to the age of 11. In May 1995 the auincidents involving the manner in which S had dealt with a particular child. The inquiries resulted in a decision critical of S.

In accordance with guidelines issued by the Department of Health the authority sent a letter to the department, and S sought damages for defamation based on the contents of the letter. The authority contended that the letter was subject to absolute privilege, but the judge had decided, as a preliminary issue, that that defence was not open to it. Geoffrey Shaw QC and Harvey Statte (Barlow Lyde & Gilbert) for S; Simeon Thrower and Rashpal Mondair (Sahota) for the authority.

Lord Woolf MR said that at the heart of the appeal was a conflict between the right of an individual to bring an action for defamation and the public interest in protecting children from conduct which could adversely affect their well-being thority initiated inquiries into or put them at risk.

sponsibility to provide inforwhich maintained an index of the details of persons engaged in child-care work who had convictions, had been dismissed, or whose conduct made them unsuitable for work

with children. The importance of safeguarding children from harm of the type against which the index was designed to give protection could not be exaggerated, but it was difficult to accept that a local authority would be deterred from providing appropriate information to the department by the threat of litigation.

Although, as the present case illustrated, there would be employees who would seek to bring defamation proceedings, the occasions on which they would have any prospect of success would be rare. In such qualified privilege would be mon law constitutional right

The authority had a re- available, requiring a plaintiff which could only be abrogated to establish malice on the part by specific statutory provision. mation to the department, of the body responsible for publication. Where a plaintiff clearly had no prospect of success, the court could be expected to be robust and to dismiss the action.

In the present case there was a public interest in that the index should be available to provide information for safeguarding the welfare of children, but, in determining whether it was necessary and appropriate to extend immunity from suit to the authority, the advantage of protecting the integrity of the index had to be weighed against the disadvantage that would cause

There was a substantial public interest in S's being able to vindicate his position. In R v Lord Chancellor, ex p Witham [1997] 2 All ER 779, a citizen's access to the court proceedings the defence of had been described as a com-

It was obvious that having his or her name placed on the index had serious repercussions for the individual concerned. If the individual's conduct justified inclusion in the index, then the existence of the index meant that his interests must give way to those of the children the index was designed to protect.

If the allegations against S were, as he alleged, not only untrue but made maliciously, then justice required that he should be able to establish his innocence, The practical consequence of his name being on the index was that he would not be able to work in his chosen occupation,

The intringement of the public interest in S having access to the courts was greater than the necessity to protect the index from the insignificant risk of impairment of its effectivness by an action for defamation.

Kate O'Hanlon, Barrister

EDITOR: ROSIE BOYCOTT: DEPUTY EDITOR: CHRIS BLACKHURST ADDRESS: I CANADA SQUARE, CANARY WHARF, LONDON E14 5DL TELEPHONE: 0171 293 2000 OR 0171 345 2000 FAX: 0171 293 2435 OR 0171 345 2435

THE INDEPENDENT ON THE INTERNET: WWW.INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

Hague gropes for a New Toryism

WILL THE real Will step forward, please? During the past few weeks there have seemed to be two William Hagues struggling for possession of the Tory leader. Like ferrets in a sack they have fought, and the blood is trailed across successive half-coherent speeches. Is he a liberal or a conservative, a localist or a centralist, a reactionary or a progressive, a preserver of the truth and beauty of the Ancient Constitution or a radical moderniser? At the moment he seems to be dashing from side to side of the political track faster than an Olympic bobsleigh.

Some say that at this stage in the game, with Tory recovery still far off, inconsistency does not matter. Look at Disraeli and Peel - they rose out of adversity and played two ends against the middle. (Tory historical consciousness leaps over such problem figures as Churchill and Thatcher.) Besides, they say, the Tory leader's priority ought to be opposition; he should be harrying the Government at every turn. But can credible opposition really just forget what the Tory government in power till last May actually did, let alone those principles which Toryism is supposed to embody? A gang of opportunists calling Tony Blair opportunist sound a mite unconvincing.

Yet we hear Francis Maude berating the Dome at every turn, conveniently ignoring who launched the project and oblivious to the support given it by the Tory grandee Michael Heseltine. We see William Hague waving his support for constitutional innovations - such as an elected assembly for London - with one hand while, with the other, he bats away at the reforms like an irate colonial colonel bothered by mosquitoes. We now love local councils, says William Hague, but we hate really-existing local goverament as practised in Hackney or Islington or Manchester.

As for Europe, we hardly need John Redwood's inability to keep the lid on his xenophobia to see that this dog has not lain down and died since Mr Hague won the leadership; it just lies there, a political Hound of the Baskervilles, occasionally snarling. The Tory party, apparently oblivious of any responsibility to think constructively about the destiny of this country, is left wallowing in the wake of Chancellor Kohl, hoping that his project for monetary union will come adrift, not realising that Tony Blair has positioned himself far better for such an eventuality.

On the few occasions since his election when William Hague has shown his own instincts he has appeared a not unattractive leader of what there will always need to be in British politics - a progressive, pro-property, anti-taxation right-of-centre party. Reviled though he was for wearing a baseball cap to the Notting Hill Carnival, that was the gesture of one who realised where our culture hummed, whose own preference is for a politics of inclusion.

But since then he seems to have allowed himself to be continually hemmed in. Take, this week, a plethora of pronouncements on Britain's electoral future. The anal-retentive tendency seems to have conquered. Just why, for example, is proportional representation such a threat, either to the Tory party or to the nation? Is the fabric of British political life so stretched, so weakened that we cannot afford a glorious experiment in choice and diversity? If PR were the threat his speech to the Centre for Policy Studies would imply, what does Mr Hague offer as an alternative means of persuading people that parliamentary politics is for them, that the system will allow them to vote successfully for representatives they can trust?

Are we any the wiser than we were about Tory ambitions for the House of Lords? William Hague, a meritocrat, seems to have been so overawed | the initiative of the United Kingdom, relationship, to adopt a more balby the lineage of Robert Cranborne (Tory leader in the Lords) that he now feels compelled to support the hereditary principle as the basis for a second chamber. Forward to the next century with a gang of drooling, prop- ian aid available to them. The serve wider Western interests in position to the war by people in erty-owning aristocrats - is that really the kind of thing the Saatchi brothers are going to be invited to sell on Mr Hague's behalf?

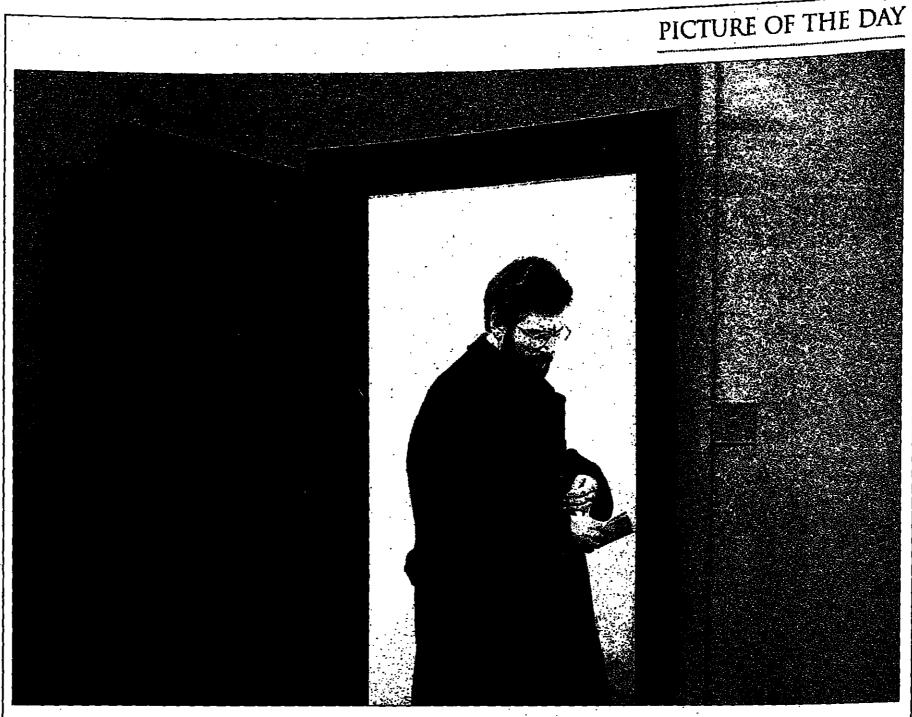
Tony Blair ought, we believe, to be a lot more radical in his thinking. But at least New Labour has begun the process of political renewal. What have the Tories to lose by joining the hunt for new forms by which the popular voice can find expression, new methods to secure people's assent to political decisions? On this week's evidence William Hague is still too much a captive of his party's stick-in-the-mud wing. His very future as party leader, let alone the future capacity of the Tories to fight the good democratic fight, depends on his breaking free.

Male Crusties' Club



IT MIGHT call itself after Mary the Good, but no Marys, or Ursulas, Sheilas or Joans are to be made welcome in the St John's Wood home of the MCC. It's tempting, in response to that vote, to invoke Groucho Marx's principle - what good woman (or self-respecting man for that matter) would want to be a member of such a club? A substantial minority is evidently made up of crusties whose misogyny and fear of change outstrips their sense of

And isn't that the real point here? The issue has nothing to do with gender on the pitch: it is about a social club with a public and to some extent a political identity. The MCC is one of those peculiar British institutions which, ostensibly private, has acquired official responsibilities. It regulates the laws of the game of cricket. As such it cannot just stand aside from history or that (slow) process by which our society recognises the existence of women in its public space and, gradually and grudgingly, its male power-holders make way for them to share it. The members of the MCC may not like it but they symbolise the width of institutional exclusion. Their vote sends a signal, both at home and overseas. It is affected, anachronistic and wrong.



Open door: this photograph by David Rose of Gerry Adams leaving the Sinn Fein offices in Belfast comes from a portfolio that won for The Independent the title of Newspaper of the Year in the British Picture Editors' Awards, announced yesterday. The paper also received an award for best use of black and white photography

What now for Irag?

THE AGREEMENT reached over the weekend in Baghdad can be attributed to the show of force in the Gulf, unanimity at the critical moment in the UN Security Council, and the determination and skill of the Secretary General. While the immediate task is to ensure that the work of the inspectors will indeed proceed without interference, other aspects of the crisis should not be neglected.

First, the plight of the long-suffering people of Iraq. Last week, on citizens of Iraq deserve to be told, this important region by all possible means, not only that Sir TERENCE CLARK they have the sympathy of the international community but that their Sir STEPHEN EGERTON suffering will end if their leaders now Ambassador to Iraa 1980-82 honour the promises to allow weapons inspectors free movement which they first made in 1991 and repeated last weekend.

Second, respect for the dignity of Ambassador to Iraq 1982-85 Iraq, to which representatives of the regime attach special importance. Such respect would be readily forthcoming were it not for the Iraqi regime's persistent disregard of its obligations under Article 55 of the UN Charter. This calls on member states to promote "universal respect for, and observance of, human rights and fundamental freedoms for all". The 16th of March will mark the tenth anniversary of the slaughter by chemical weapons of several thousand inhabitants of the Kurdish town of Halabja. Nor has the fate of thousands of Shia inhabitants of the marshes in southern Iraq following the Gulf war been forgotten. The United Nations should now pursue the search for a remedy for the inconsistency between Article 55 and Article 2.7, which precludes intervention in matters within the domestic jurisdiction of

any member state". Third, the emphasis the United States has placed on the importance of strict compliance with UN resolutions has prompted comparisons between American attitudes to Iraq and to the deadlocked peace process between the Palestinians and Israel. The point has been made that Israel

LETTERS

Post letters to Letters to the Editor and include a daytime telephone number Fax 0171 293 2056; e-mail: letters@independent.co.uk E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity.

remains in breach of a number of UN resolutions. There is an opportunity here for the Prime Minister to use the UK's presidency of the European Union to promote a European appeal to President Clinton, with whom he has established a close working the Security Council agreed to an in- anced policy towards the Middle crease in the amount of humanitar- East. This, he could argue, would Ambassador to Iraq 1985-89

Sir DONALD MAITLAND UK Representative to the UN 1973-74; to the EC 1975-79 Sir JOHN MOBERLY

DAVID SUMMERHAYES Ambassador to the Disarmament Committee, Geneva, 1979-82 Sir HAROLD WALKER Ambassador to Iraq 1990-91

SADDAM HUSSEIN recognises when it is necessary to take one step back in order to be able to take two steps forward later on.

He will now do what is necessary to get the UN inspectors off his back and out of Iraq as quickly as possible. With sanctions consequently lifted, he will buy new weapons, and rebuild his chemical and germ warfare capabilities. The latter are cheap and quick to construct, and are easily camouflaged as food, pharmaceutical or chemical industries as the UN has found.

Bill Clinton won't still be around in three years; Saddam will. He can afford to gamble on a less resolute US, an inconsequential Britain and an indecisive EU. With no UN inspectors to keep him in check, there is every prospect of an escalated repeat showing of this latest Gulf crisis at the start of the Third Millennium - but with a different outcome. The need to be rid of Sad-tered with empty cans, cartons and dam has not gone away. PHILIP RATCLIFFE Maidenhead, Berkshire

CLINTON and Blair say it is their these problems must be undertaken threat of force which has created the diplomatic agreement and averted ""P HARDING (for the moment) their bombing of Breamore, Hampshire Iraq. It is surely the widespread op-America and Britain which made these overgrown playground bullies back down.

But the bombs are still in their bands. We will not be safe until the sanctions are ended and all the troops and weapons pulled out. JOHN NICHOLSON Manchester

Right to roam

ROBIN HANBURY TENISON (letter, 23 February) seems to think that voluntary agreements on access to the countryside are the best way forward. Unfortunately this has not been

the case. The 1949 Countryside Act made provision for voluntary agreements and, to quote Angela Eagle, Under-Secretary of State at the Department of Environment, Transport and the Regions: "Although some use has been made of existing access provision, generally, they have not been implemented sufficiently widely."

Voluntary agreements can also be broken. Would the landowners be quite so keen to allow access if a government less sympathetic to ramblers were in power and there were no threat of introducing right-to-roam legislation? STEVE BARBER

Beeston, Nottinghamshire

I AM delighted to see responsible members of the public using the footpaths and bridle-ways that run across my farm. I have a busy main road that runs through the middle and the adjoining banks and hedgerows are litall manner of plastic and paper. Do we want this type of pollution all over Very careful consideration of

if the countryside is to be protected.

False Masons

MR MILLER is not ashamed to admit he is a Freemason (letter, 24 February). Good for him. My problem is that secrecy allows others to claim membership which cannot be I work with victims of abuse by

healthcare professionals, psychiatrists, GPs, psychiatric nurses and so on. When those who have suffered long-term sexual abuse begin to show signs of independence, it is surprising how often they are told, You won't get anywhere if you try to complain about me. I am a Freemason."

It may be that this is merely a fictitious ploy by people we know to be skilled manipulators; but if there were an open register, at least nonmembers would not be able to make such a claim. JEAN ROBINSON Oxford

Gents in the loo

REPORTING on the MCC vote over exclusion of women (24 February), you list 10 differences between men and women, including: "Women hang toilet paper to curl over at the top of the roll; men have it peeping out from underneath."

I have never known any man replace a loo roll, either curling over or peeping out. Where did you find them? Certainly not in the Long SUSAN FREEMAN

Hampton Hill, Middlesex

Titanic injustice

THE FILM, Titanic gives an unfair portrayal of my grandfather, Bruce 🚁 Ismay, chairman of the White Star Line. Please allow me to set the record straight.

The film shows Ismay urging Captain Smith to increase speed, in order to gain favourable publicity by arriving in New York ahead of schedule. According to W J Oldham's The Ismay Line, quite the reverse is true. Before sailing, Smith received Ismay's instructions, "Under no circumstances whatsoever is the Titanic to arrive before 5am on Wednesday morning at the Ambrose Light Vessel." This was in line with company policy, which put comfort before speed. Also, it was Ismay's practice never to interfere in the running of a ship on which he was travelling. Both points were made at the subsequent inquiries.

After the collision, Ismay worked for nearly two hours helping people into the boats. He only left when there being no more women in sight on the deck, he was ordered into the last boat, as it was being lowered. This account comes from an affidavit made to the American inquiry by Mr A H Weikman, barber on the Titanic

I believe there should be a code practice for film-makers, which would enforce adherence to accepted facts. In this instance, Bruce Ismay's character was blackened purely for dramatic effect.

I can write with some authority and, I think, impartiality on this matter, since Bruce Ismay's successor to the chairmanship, Harold Sanderson, was my other grandfather. ALAN SANDERSON London W2

Too old for the Dome?

WHAT ABOUT the people, like me, who hope to be 70 in 2000? The contents of the Millennium Dome seem to be for those aged 45 or less. As far as I can see it is not a place I shall visit. This letter comes from my e-mail address - yes. I am an Internei user. MARY HODGES

That millennium – the big stories you wouldn't have thought of in a thousand years



I WAS up in London the other day helping to plan the March Against The Countryside (yes, the little-known March AGAINST The Countryside, planned as a counterblast to the Countryside March - but more about this tomorrow). Anyway, so there I was in London when I bumped into my old friend Adrian Wardour-Street, the doyen of the PR business. the man who makes Max Clifford look like Max Clifford. I steered him into the nearest catering establishment and asked him what he was working on now.

"It's the big one," said Adrian. "The

"Oh, no -don't tell me you've got mixed up with the Peter Mandelson crowd!" 'The Dome gnome? No, no - nothing like that. I'm heading up the new Millen-

nium Press Authority." "The WHAT?" Adrian looked around to make sure no-

body was listening, and leant towards me confidentially.

"Has it ever occurred to you how many stories are going to be generated by the Millennium? Big, big, stories? And I don't mean little Dome stories - I mean world stories!"

'What sort of stories?"

Well, stories about the first baby in the world to be born in the 21st century. About the last person to die in the 20th century. About the twins who were born ten minutes apart - but in different centuries!" "What twins?"

"Well, we don't know who they are yet. but there are bound to be some. There always are. A pair of twins born just either side of midnight on 31 December 1999! 'We're the same age - but centuries apart!' Sensational! That's the sort of story we're after. So we'll be keeping track of all sets of twins likely to be born that

day, and splashing the names of the lucky ones the next morning!" "Lucky?"

"Well, unlucky for them, but lucky for us. We're also keeping track of all old people born in the last year or two of the Vic-

torian era." "Why"

"WHY? Because anyone born in 1899 who survives to AD 2000 will have lived in three different centuries, that's why! What a story! And we'll be covering every development in the South Seas...

"Why the South Seas." "Oh, for heaven's sake, because that's where the International Date Line is and that's where the new century will start first! Think of all the stories about the people who travelled there specially - and the ones who missed it! 'I overslept and missed the Millennium, says Yorkshire man. 'We went back in time' say Australian couple who sailed their hoat over the Date Line from Thought?, and stories about the Millenthe new century into the old! And we know all about the people who want to be the first in the new century, but what about those who want to stay as long as possible in 1999 and are the last to leave the old century, just across the Date Line on the wrong side? What about them, eh? Oh. there if he masses of stories. As long as the Millennium Press Authority can keep

tabs on them." "This is all a bit remote, though," I said. What about millennium stories closer to home?"

"Masses of them," he said. "1 January 2000. The First 21st Century New Year Honours List. Arise, Sir Peter Mandelson." "You're kidding!"

"Am I? Wait and find out. Then there will be features on Princess Diana ~ 'Our First Century without Diana! or 'The New Century - What Would Diana Have blushed.

nium Dome Bug..."

"The Millennium Dome Bug?" Yes. We're going to spread a rumour that the Millennium Bug is not confined to computers, but that the Dome is affected as well, being unable to cope with the

change of the century, and is due to collapse some time in the early hours of 1 January, with tremendous loss of life." "Is there any truth in the story?" "I sincerely hope not," said Adrian, "My

knighthood will go for a hurton if it "Your knighthood?"

"You can only live in hope," said Advian, winking "Mention it in your column if you can. Never too early to sow the seed." "Consider it done," I said, "Sir Adri-

I won't swear to it, but I think he

the water

And the second s

Pity the rich Swiss – they have to accept their own normality



RUPERT CORNWELL

BERNE - Panic in paradise? Well, not quite. But a visit to Switzerland in early 1998 is a distinctly disconcerting experience. Now the conservative Swiss are not ones to get carried away. But in its sedate fashion the place is in ferment, It's not that BSE has broken out on the scented Alpine pastures, or that poverty beckons for Europe's richest country, still as ruinously expensive as ever. Scratch a little deeper though, and you are amazed. As never before perhaps in the 150 years of the modern state, the assumptions on which Switzerland is based are under challenge. Up in the mountains, the glaciers are retreating in the face of global warming. Down in the plains and valleys, where Switzerland meets the outside world, it is frozen history that is ty in its old fashioned sense is an irrelevance; melting. And not before time.

Switzerland is a prisoner of its myth. For the Swiss, theirs has been the land apart, which thanks to its valour, industry and good sense had avoided the traumas that engulfed the rest of Europe. It has seen itself as the purest distillation of independence and neutrality, underpinned by an Athenian system of direct democracy envied by the rest of us. And envy it we did. Depression, world wars, cold wars, the birth of a new Europe - come what may, Switzerland sailed serenely onward, rich and contented. No longer. From both the past and the present, the Swiss myth is under siege.

The catalyst of course has been the Nazigold controversy. The end of the Cold War, had buried allegations of Swiss collaboration with the Nazis under the greater need to contain the Russians. Periodically, doubts would crop up, even in Switzerland; but basically the myth survived: heroism, not expediency, saved the Swiss from the Third Reich.

Well, Switzerland now learns, not quite. The revelations of dormant accounts, fresh details of how the country was Hitler's financial conduit to the rest of the world and how it turned many Jews away - all erode the way the country regards itself. Not unnaturally, the Swiss are searching around for culprits. Some blame jealous foreigners for exaggerating modest sins into huge iniquities, others blame the banks more. Save the motherland from whom? for their obsession with secrecy and their heartless treatment of Holocaust survivors seeking money hidden by murdered relatives. And of course others blame the Jews. But gradually, one senses, reality is dawning. The country was not an active collaborator of Nazism; indeed it behaved better than either France or Austria, and its role may be compared to that of Sweden. But neither was it perfect.

And the extent of that imperfection will be revealed. The Swiss are nothing if not meticulous. Three separate investigations are underway into the country's behaviour. A first detailed report in April will deal with the gold dealings: the word is that it will be "very critical." Others will follow on the conduct of Swiss

insurance companies, trading in looted art, and more besides. But the broad conclusion is already clear. Entirely surrounded by Axis powers and dependent on outside raw materials, Switzerland did what it had to do - what

most others would have done: it compromised. Now turn history forward half a century. Once more Switzerland is surrounded, This time the encircler takes the more benign shape of the European Union, but again the limits of "independence" are exposed. The Swiss Government is now committed to joining the EU. As Flavio Cotti, who currently holds the rotating presidency of the federation points out, it has scant choice in the matter: "A country remaining outside has to pay the price of isolation." Berne and the EU are presently negotiating a bilateral agreement, which amounts to a pre-accession treaty and which might well founder on a transport dispute. But the sense of the process is clear. Switzerland is in a corner. As in 1939, it must get the best deal it can.

Conceivably, clinging to an imagined independence, the country may yet turn its back on the EU. But even if it does, the new Europe has already undermined that other holy canon of neutrality. Strip away the myth, and you realise neutrality was an instrument to keep Switzerland out of wars between overwhelmingly more powerful neighbours. But today, war between Germany and France is inconceivable. Swiss neutrali-



in the Cold War the country was taken for granted as part of the West. Now a more humdrum neutrality beckons, like that of Sweden. Austria, or Ireland.

But such a realisation is not a cause for joy. The embrace of Europe is reluctant, born not of idealism but necessity. Already Switzerland must shape its economic laws with one eye on the EU. Full membership implies, perforce, greater centralisation and a weakening of the cherished system of referenda and town hall decision-making. If the Euro succeeds, another symbol of nationhood, the Swiss franc, is also doomed. And even Switzerland's legendary 500,000-strong citizens militia, each with a rifle under the bed, trained to blow up the the first trump of an Alpine horn, may be no There are now proposals for a 10,000 man professional standing army. In this moment of selfquestioning, nothing is sacred.

Is this the end of "Swiss-ness"? Of course not - no more than the EU has drained the nationhood from France, Britain or Italy. But for once the expression "turning point" is not a cliche. A senior member of one of the commissions says, "I see us in the UN in five or ten years, and then inside the EU." No more splendid isolation, fewer myths, no more Swiss exceptionalism. Just a small, extremely wealthy country at the very heart of Europe. For most of us, such normality would indeed be paradise. For Switzerland, adjustment to

Bombs, bullets and hard words: but there still is hope in Ulster

The peace process grinds slowly on but, says David McKittrick, there may yet be a compromise Gerry Adams and David Trimble can live with

IT'S actually something of a mercy that Tony Blair and Mo Mowlam have imposed a time-limit on the Northern Ireland peace process, insisting as they have that the multi-party talks must conclude within a matter of months. There will then be referendums north and south in early May. London and Dublin hope these will endorse a plan for an ambitious new dispensation aimed at transforming Northern Ireland into a more stable and thus ultimately more peaceful state.

This is a mercy partly because it will concentrate the minds of the more fearful politicians who are often tempted to filibuster rather than cut a deal. But it's also a blessing in that it will limit the time available to those intent on using death and destruction to wreck the peace

If the past few months are anything to go by, the path to the May referendums will probably be punctuated by acts of violence from the more murderous of Northern Ireland's blizzard of acronyms. The CAC (Continuity Army Council), INLA (Irish National Liberation Army) and LVF (Loyalist Volunteer Force) will all be trying hard. All three of these have already shown their ability to unsettle the process with shootings and bombings; as the May deadline approaches they will try to derail it completely.

Although these are small groups their violence can have powerful effects. The two recent bombings of the Protestant towns of Moira and Portadown, which look to be the work of the CAC, embitter the Unionist community and give its politicians even less room to manoeuvre. They also, especially with the attack on the Orange citadel of Portadown, practically beg groups such as the LVF, which is based there, to hit back. And when they go out and kill Catholics, as they probably will, the republican grassroots will press the IRA to retali-

Thus groups which are outside the process can exert an indirect but powerful force on those inside the talks. Thus, too, the whole psychology of the process can be changed. Those Unionists, for example, who are prepared to contemplate a historic new deal involving republicans, look at the ruins of Moira and Portadown and wonder whether the peace process is meaningless. If they believe David Trimble, the bombs were the work of the treacherous IRA; if they believe the RUC, the CAC was responsible. Either way, as they are asked to make a serious and politically costly effort to reach out to the other side, the prospect is that some republicans are going to keep on bomb-



The Orange citadel of Portadown, after Monday's bomb

For the exercise to be successful in May, the two governments are going to have to come up with something which was once unthinkable, and which is still a very tall order. That is to say, it will have to be something that David Trim-

logically incompatible, since the first wants to strengthen the union while the latter wants to break it. But there have been tantalising glimpses of some interim settlement, in the here and now rather than the green or Orange utopi-

The two governments are going to have to come up with something which was once unthinkable, and which is still a very tall order

very idea would have been laughed out of court: how on earth, it would be asked, could it be expected that a Unionist and a republican might find common

It is still the case that the ultimate ing anyway, settlement or no settlement. aims of Unionism and republicanism are with the talks process.

go live with. A couple of years ago the exist, however uneasily. But it hardly needs to be said that there are an extraordinary number of difficulties to be overcome before this could become reality. For one thing, there are clearly factions on both the republican and Unionist sides who want nothing to do

This opposition is most visible on the Unionist side where the Rev Ian Paisley, who two years ago took more than a third of the Unionist vote, regularly denounces the whole thing. And with four of David Trimble's ten MPs urging him to walk out of the talks one can see why he constantly looks over his shoul-

The pattern is different on the republican side, but the fact that the IRA carried out two recent killings - sanctioned, by all accounts, by its leaders shows that not everyone in the republican movement feels that the first priority is to keep Sinn Fein in talks. Somebody in there either wants them out, or is pretty much indifferent on the

The fact that Sinn Fein are undergoing a two-week suspension in the "sinbin" is a further source of instability. Although Sinn Fein were among the principal architects of the process, many of the republican grassroots, angered by the expulsion, now question the value of a return to talks. They probably will go back in, though not meekly.

The weeks after that should determine whether or not the talks process will or will not work. Most of the main participants will be heading off to Washington for the jollifications and politicking of St Patrick's Day, March 17, after which will come the most crucial period of all. Most involved now agree that they should be spirited away by the two governments, away from the media's questing microphones, for a final intensive negotiating session. By that stage the parties should have in front of them a draft agreement, drawn up perhaps by London and Dublin or perhaps by talks chairman George Mitchell.

This make-or-break session is to be slotted in between St Patrick's Day and Good Friday, which this year falls on April 10. If a deal is struck then, the weeks after Easter will be taken up by the referendum campaigns, with those supporting the new deal attempting to stave off the objections of those opposed

It is unrealistic to expect that all this will take place against a background of peace: CAC, INLA, LVF and so on will see it as their duty to wreck the thing. There might also be splits inside the IRA or within the loyalist organisations involved in the talks, who may find it impossible to swallow the kind of compromises that will be necessary. A glance back shows just how many obstacles are strewn across the path to the referendums. And even after successful referendums, more difficulties will lie ahead as the representatives of traditions who have opposed each other for centuries are called upon to cooperate to make new structures work,

The deaths and political disagreements of recent months have had a dispiriting effect in Belfast, ensuring that the old bitternesses remain as jagged as ever. But disillusionment has not yet become despair, and hope is still alive: hope that for all the setbacks things are still moving, however slowly, in a positive direction; hope that all those deadly obstacles may yet be surmounted.

By the waters of the Thames, I sat down and wept ...



直, 其, 是, 好得,

最高 20 年175 年 17

758% - . - --

· (= 1 gen in the second

80

MELLOR

The jumble of ideas revealed for the Dome is a reason for genuine sadness

I AM against the Millennium Dome. It gives me no pleasure to say so, since many of those closely involved in the project are very able, and some, like Michael Grade, very good friends for whom my admiration is almost boundless. Nor do l condemn the Government's enthusiasm for the scheme for base party political reasons. I am merely being consistent. I condemned it when the Conservatives sought stumblingly to give life to this grotesque white elephant, and must continue to do so now Labour have clasped the wretched creature to their bosom. I heard nothing at the Festival Hall launch on Tuesday to convince me that at a time of real austerity in public expenditure, this is anything other than a lam-

ed resources from other far more worthwhile projects.

I am astonished that a government normally so sure-footed in judging the public mood has taken on the uphill task of persuading many millions of sceptics up and down the nation that something to justify the enormous outlay can be created in the time remaining. How ironic to use the Festival Hall when Richard Rogers's genuinely inspired makeover of the South Bank, which has on one site the greatest concentration of arts activities in the world, is heing delayed for want of funds. It is surely ridiculous that the South Bank will continue to look like a discarded set from A Clockwork Orange through the

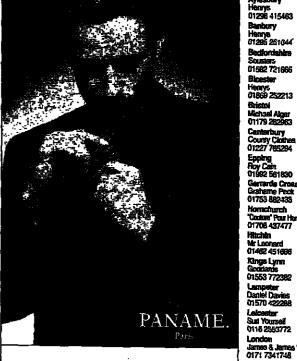
entable diversion of much need- millennium and beyond while this fundamentally pointless and

purposeless dome flourishes. The Dome in truth is a lot of money chasing a big idea, and chasing it against a time frame that is becoming impossibly short. There were boasts yesterday about the £60m forthcoming, after much arm twisting, from the private sector. Nothing was said of the £90m still outstanding and which no one seems enthusiastic to contribute. Against a background of bickering, and the obvious lack of a single inspirational figure of genius to give the thing life and value, increasingly desperate attempts are being made to persuade us that the dome will contain enough magic to be vaut le voyage. But to my mind it is an impossible task to turn the iumble of ideas presented on Tuesday into something with the overarching coherence neces-

sary to give the project life. The celebrations of the millennium went wrong almost as soon as the idea emerged five years ago. It might have been possible then to have started projects of real worth, on a number of sites throughout the nation, to give to postcrity buildings that spoke of our age as eloquently as places such as the Houses of Parliament or St Paul's Cathedral speak of theirs. But that was not to be; such ideas were too big for the minds then assembled to bring them to pass. The whole thing deteriorated, first into a des-

perate trawl through the nation for ideas, out of which emerged a series of millennium village hall type projects of unconcealable bathos, and then, once the great exhibition idea had been filched from the past, yet more wrangling over where the project should be located

and who should run it. Such was the state of things when Labour were elected, that everyone would have understood if they had pulled the plug. But they haven't, and they now face a seriously uphill struggie to rescue their own credibility leave aside the Dome's. I do not gloat over any of this. I just feel desperately sad that when it could all have been so different, it has in fact come to this.



YOUR MADE TO MEASURE SUIT IN LESS THAN 21 DAYS. MORE THAN 75 DIFFERENT MODELS. A CHOICE OF 400 FABRICS 40 OPTIONS AND NUMEROUS PERSONAL TOUCHES, AND ALL VERY COMFORTABLY PRICED.

Salksbury Chas H. Baker 01722 324234 Sutton C'Field Heaphy's 0121 373 2670

Tenterden Courty Clothes 01580 765159 Warwick Heaphy's 01926 400647

08000 18 18 16

WHEN they unveiled the artist's view of the Millennium Dome's interior. Pandora immediately thought, "Hold on, haven't I seen this before?" It looked amazingly like the interior of the black glass pyramid Luxor Hotel and Casino on the Las Vegas Strip. one of Pan-



dora's favourite leisure spots. Indeed there is a black glass pyramid in the Dome. And a huge Sphinx-like statue dominating the scene, as in

the Luxor. What about the floating "dreamscape" rides." They're not a million miles from the Luxor's own "River Nile" floating boats that cruise around the craps tables and poker

room. We called the New Millennium Exhibition Company and asked spokesman Terrence Gibbons if anyone from Nevada had been involved in the design of the Dome planning. "No, all the designers are from London," he insisted. And was there going to be any gambling in the Dome? "No, this is going to be a wholesome exhibition, aimed at children." Not even a single betting shop or any Lottery scratchcards for sale, "No." How strange to build a Vegas casino in Docklands, hailed by Tony Blair as "the most exciting place in the world", but exclude gambling.

And particularly unfair to the nation's punters who, after all, have con-

One of the principal corporate sponsors of the Dome, Manpower, the UK's largest employment agency, has pledged £12m to launch the enticingly-



named "Work Zone" and the equally fascinating-sounding "Skills Olympics". This generous act of altruism may have something to do with the fact that one of Manpower's tributed £399m to the Dome via their fiercest competitors, Reed Employment enjoys a very friendly relationship with the Government. It's chairman Alec Reed (who donated £100,000 the Labour Party election war-chest) is now a valued consultant

and educational issues. Moreover, Reed Employment is a lead organization in the "New Deal for the Unemployed". When you think about it, £100,000 looks remarkably cheap compared to £12m.

When Special Branch investigators looking at the infiltration of NF fascists into football hooliganism reported that one of the worst trouble spots appeared to be Brighton and Hove Albion, eyebrows were raised. Apparently entire terraces at Brighton's grounds had been chanting, "Seig Heil! Seig Heil!" Since when had the most famous of all genteel English seaside towns become home to a legion of jackboot-wearing, skinhead racist thugs? Another investiacoustically impaired, was dispatched. to the scene. His report: the crowd was actually chanting the Brighton team's nickname: "Seagulis! Seagulis!"

"Sally Emerson writes like a dangerous angel" reads the dust-jacket puff on the back of her most recent novel, 'Heat'. Who contributed this edgy acclaim to a book described elsewhere on its cover as "a magnificent, ensnaring, erotic novel" by the wife of Peter Stothard, editor of 'The Times'? None other than Douglas Adams, the bestselling New Age guru and intergalactic hitchhiker. Now why should he feel endangered by Emerson's passionate prose?

On the bright side of Zippergate, Clinton has just received the Kennedy seal of approval. John Kennedy Jr. says that he believes Clinton when he denies having improper sex in the White House, particularly under the desk in the Oval Office. "I was under that desk gator, this one presumably less a lot 35 years ago and I can tell you there is barely room for a three year

Pandora

BUSINESS & CITY EDITOR, JEREMY WARNER NEWS DESK: 0171-293 2636 FAX: 0171-293 2098 E-MAIL: INDYBUSINESS@INDEPENDENT.CO.UK FINANCIAL JOURNAL OF THE YEAR

Commercial Union's £15bn merger with GA leaves 3,000 UK jobs in jeopardy

Commercial Union and General Accident, two of the UK's yesterday attempted to create share of 10 per cent, and the fifth one of the biggest insurers in Europe with a £15hn merger that will lead to the loss of 3.000

Executives of both companies said the merger would give



Top European lite companies

birth to a world-scale, international insurance group which would rank ninth in continental Europe by market value.

World-wide, 5,000 jobs will go merger is completed. The two

Standard denies

board split on

independence

CGU, will have a world-wide staff of roughly 53,000. It will be the second biggest general insurer in the UK, after Royal & largest insurance companies, Sun Alliance, with a market biggest life insurer, holding more than 5 per cent of the market.

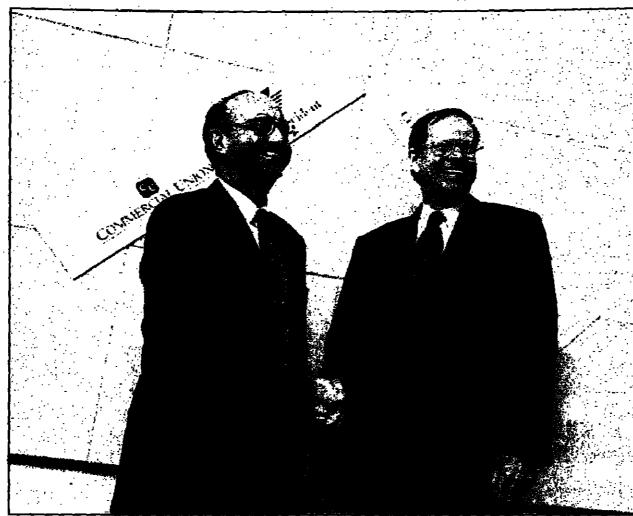
If shareholders approve the merger, Sir John Carter, chief executive of Commercial Union, will retire in June in favour of Bob Scott, chief executive of General Accident. Pehr Gyllenhammar, currently chairman of CU, will lead a board consisting of four directors from CU and three from GA.

Sir John yesterday said there were significant new opportunities in Europe as private savings and insurance policies were used to top up state protection. Both companies believe that CGU will be much more strongly positioned to capitalise on these opportunities than either company could on its own," he said.

Unions yesterday gave a tentative welcome to the merger, calling the combined company a "positive force" which could survive in a competitive market. But they warned they would need firm assurances on compulsory redundancies.

Roger Lyons, general secretary of the Manufacturing, Science and Finance union, yesterday said: "The MSF will be seeking urgent consultations and agreement with both GA and CU to avoid any involuntary redundancies arising from this proposed merger.

"Financial sector mergers are in an effort to extract £225m a threatening too many quality year in cost savings after the jobs and careers and so the MSF will be taking all necessary steps companies yesterday said a one- to safeguard the thousands of jobs off sum of £300m would be spent in Scotland, York, Stevenage in order to implement the savings. and other centres, while seeking The combined group, to be to retain a realistic branch known by the three initials network across the UK."



Sir John Carter, chief executive of Commercial Union (left), with Bob Scott, group chief executive of Genera Accident following the announcement yesterday that the two insurers are to merge

cent of staff that left the companies each year. But they refused to rule out compulsory redundancies. Directors were unable to specify how many of

be spread across the UK.

the group's branches would dis-

appear but said closures would

Executives said they hoped London, while the group keeps to shed jobs among the 10 per slimmed-down operations in Glasgow, York, Dundee and

The merger may lead to an improvement in job prospects in Perth, home of GA's head office, where the new group will house its combined general insurance arms, leading to an Industry observers expect expansion of its Scottish staff. creasingly complex and in- by 85 points to 1370p.

majority of new business going to both groups.

Mr Scott said the £225m in cost savings would flow from shedding staff, cutting surplus property and by using the same IT systems. IT is the biggest element of capital expenditure at Commercial Union. "It is becoming in-

systems. Merging these two

companies will give us what we need to establish common systems to save on IT costs," Mr The City reacted coolly to

the deal and sharply marked down the shares in both companies. CU slipped to 1103p from 1130p while GA dropped

Strong GRE results put insurance sector in merger spotlight

By Lea Paterson and Andrew Verity

Shares in the insurance sector received a double boost yesterday as merger-mania, on the back of the Commercial Union/General Accident deal. combined with the publication of strong financial results from Prudential and Guardian Royal Exchange.

A 41 per cent profits leap at GRE did little to dampen speculation that the smallest of the composite insurers needed to do a deal to catch up with its competitors. Pretax profits soared to £872m. more than expected by most analysts. The company also announced it would return £189m of capital to shareholders, approximately 20.5p per share.

One fund manager said: "Guardian is now the smallest company about. They are going to have to tie up or risk being left on the shelf". GRE is seen by many industry commentators as a prime takeover target. Shares in GRE finished

the day up 34.25p at 475p. Trevor May at Salomon Smith Barney said: "It's quite a respectable performance, although UK motoring results were worse than most people were looking for. I was quite pleased to see a return of capital to shareholders".

GRE has traded at a discount to the insurance sector for some time because of its relatively high exposure to the competitive motor insurance market.

Not everyone in the City shared the view that a merger was essential for the insurer. opening a new call centre in Mr May said: "It's an easy to Derby which will employ 1,500 thing to say but it's not as if the new staff.

company is completely devoid of strategy. It's big enough to go it alone if it needs to."

Meanwhile, Prudential reported a sharp fall in profits from its UK life insurance business in 1997, a year which has seen it repeatedly pummelled by regulators over its failure to clear up mis-selling of pensions by its sales force. Profits from long-term sav-

ing policies, including endowments, life insurance and pensions, fell by 9 per cent to £570m. Much of the fall was due to a £27m charge in respect of £450m which has been put aside to compensate victims of mis-selling.

The Pru said new business profits - just 3 per cent up on 1996 at £208m - had been hit by lower sales volumes from its sales force. The sales team were taken off the road for a month last summer after regulators raised serious objections to the Pru's compliance with the rules.

The UK results marred an otherwise upbeat year for the Pru which saw operating profits up by 15 per cent to £895m. It announced a rise in dividend of 10.4 per cent to 19.1p per share. Its shares closed up 40p at 934p.

Oftel re

to appo

success(

Cruicks

- Æx:

. . 4

. - \

24

ウェ**ナ**

17.00

emment plans sur

The state of the state of

The same of the said the bell

The same of the same of

There is the large to the

Full Is to Spring at the

The Street Story Clar March 1

Section for the law to the law to

The last the state of the second

Irtaulds shares

Miles Santa

C.E. Alterna The Constitution THE THE PARTY to the party.

一种建筑

The Pru saw the amount of money it manages across the world grow by one-third to £119bn as it integrated its biggest acquisition of last year.

Scottish Amicable. The Pru also made strides in the telebanking market, where policyholders put £900m of fund into the company's new banking subsidiary. Last week, it announced it was

many of the job losses to fall in General insurance makes up the creasingly costly to establish IT First Leisure investors poised for revolt over Grade's pay

By Lea Paterson

Standard Chartered, the international bank, yesterday denied its board was split on the question of independence.

Speaking at a presentation of the bank's annual results, Patrick Gillam, Standard's chairman. said the board was committed to the strategy of independence. "This is the unanimous view of the Standard Chartered board", he said. Malcolm Williamson, the chief executive, added, "And I can confirm that."

Recent reports had suggested Mr Williamson had made merger overtures to Martin Taylor, chief executive of Barclays. In contrast, Mr Gillam was reported to be in favour of independence.

Earlier this week, Standard Chartered issued a statement denying it was in merger talks. This followed weekend press reports that Mr Taylor and Mr Williamson discussed the possibility of a merger over dinner in an exclusive London restaurant.

There is still dispute between sources at the banks, however, about who broached the subject of a merger with whom. Sources at Standard Chartered have categorically denied that Mr Williamson brought up the possibility of a link-up. Sources close to Mr Taylor have suggested that the conversation was "not completely one-sided".

Standard Chartered shares finished the day up 124p at 882p. Analysts said the share price rise was due partly to the better-than-expected results and partly to the continued hope in some parts of the City that Standard Chartered could still forge links with a UK banking rival.

Headline pre-tax profits at the bank were flat at £870m, largely because of sizeable provisions for had debts in Asia. However, analysts were cheered by the strong underlying profit growth, by hints of future acquisitions in the Middle East and in Asia, and by the bank's apparently prudent approach to the Asian crisis.

The bank made specific provisions for the crisis of £201m in 1997. It also added £100m to its general, unspecified debt

Tim Sykes, analyst at Credit Suisse First Boston, said: "They understand their market and their business mix is very focused on certain areas, like trade finance and consumer lending."

Peter Wood, finance director, said the bank had only lost money on foreign exchange on one day last year. That was on 2 July, the day when the Thai baht devalued.

Mr Gillam said: "Our 1997 results demonstrate our capacity to produce excellent results when our main markets in Asia are suffering consider-

By Andrew Yates A shareholder revolt is brewing at First Leisure, the bingo to

bowling group, over Michael Grade's controversial pay package. The former head of Channel 4 joined the company as chairman last summer and stands to receive more than £4.5m over the next four years.

Institutional shareholders are also angry at the £79,000 paid to

Michael Payne, First Leisure's managing director, to extend his contract from one to three years, in direct conflict with corporate governance guidelines.

Institutions may seek to block the introduction of Mr Grade's new long term incentive plan. Several large shareholders are also threatening to vote against the reelection of three of the group's directors unless First Leisure comes up with satisfactory an-

swers to their grievances. Joe Bollum, David Ducks and John Woolf, who all sit on the remuneration committee that agreed the payouts, could face opposition to their re-appointment at the group's AGM on March 17.

One fund manager said: "We are seeking clarification on the reason for these payments. This is far from over and the agm will be the focal point for concerns

Institutions have raised concerns over Lord Rayne and Robbie Rayne, the father and son team that sits on the remuneration committee. They are both directors and substantial shareholders of London Merchant Securities, the property group which was an original shareholder in First Leisure and which still has a major stake in the group. Another in-

stitutional shareholder said:

"Their attitude to best corporate practice looks suspect." Mr Grade's pay is £510,000 a

year, well in excess of the £450.00 he earned as head of Channel 4. He is also entitled to a bonus for achieving a growth in the group's earnings per share and share price of just 2 per cent over and above the rate of inflation. The maximum payout under the scheme is £625,000 a year if Mr Grade can achieve 6 per cent growth.

First Leisure tried to play down the extent of shareholders worries yesterday. Graham Coles, the group's finance director, said: The institutions have not expressed any concerns to us. The performance criteria that Mr Grade has to meet are tougher than those of John Conlan the group's former chief executive.

First Leisure shares have underperformed the market by more than 30 per cent in the last 12 months.

EMI in succession crisis as Fifield threatens to quit

By Nigel Cope City Correspondent

Jim Fifield, the head of EMI's music division, is said to be furious with the group's board after it blocked his appointment as chief executive last Friday. Sources close to EMI Music in New York say Mr Fifield is deeply unhappy at not getting the job he wanted and the way the issue was handled.

With EMI now looking for a new chief executive Mr Fifield will not stay at the group beyond the expiry of his contract next March. He may leave well before then if the company agrees to buy him out.

Mr Fifield, known as "Lucky Jim" because of his lavish remuneration, was the front runner for the position and most observers had expected him to be named as chief executive as Sir Colin Southgate, chairman, had

back to a non-executive role.

But the board could not agree on the way the role would be defined and Sir Colin will now stay on as chairman. Mr Fifield had wanted free rein with Sir Colin having only limited input on a non-executive basis. EMI has denied that the decision was related to boardroom concerns over Mr Fifield's pay demands.

With Mr Fifield ruled out, City analysis now expect the top job to go to an external candidate. Ken Berry, who runs EMI's record labels, was once considered a possibility but he is staying in his current position. He will continue the restructure of the group's operations which have been hit by sluggish sales and the impact of the financial

crisis in Asia. Mr Berry, who was born in the UK but lives in California, has attracted criticism for pro-

expressed an interest in stepping moting Nancy, his American wife, from an executive position in charge of "special projects" to the more senior post of vice chairman of Virgin Group Records last September. There have been reports of management unrest at the group with some saying Ms Berry treats subordinates poorly.

Ms Berry, 39, earned her stripes with her part in signing the top-selling Spice Girls for EMI. But things have not gone so well more recently with artists such as Janet Jackson and David Bowie failing to deliver high sales. There has also been disquiet

over Ms Berry's high-octane lifestyle which is said to include lavish parties at the couple's Bel Air mansion and friendships with rock stars. There has been speculation that the Berrys' high-living and high-profile lifestyle was causing tension between Ken Berry and Sir Colin Southgate.



tipped for top job at EMI

Ms Berry's commitment to attending rock concerts and backstage parties has impressed some of EMI's most highprofile stars who say few other executives of her seniority bother to put in appearances. David Bowie described her as "a real rock'n'roll girl".

Waterstone admits rival buyer may foil £300m WH Smith deal

Tim Waterstone, the bookselling entrepreneur, admitted vesterday that a rival buyer could launch a higher bid for Waterstone's and scupper his £300m deal with WH Smith, writes Nigel Cope.

Barnes & Noble, a big US book retailer, is keen to expand in the UK and last year sent a team of executives to scour the country for suitable sites. It could still enter the fray as the Waterstone's requires approval from WH Smith shareholders.

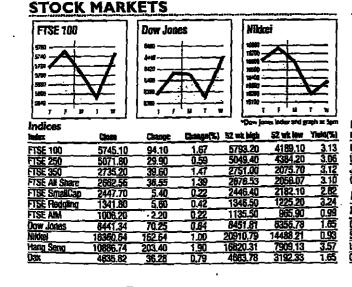
"It is possible but I don't think they want to come in too fast into the market," Mr Waterstone said. "They've had their chance to look at it." WH Smith said it did not

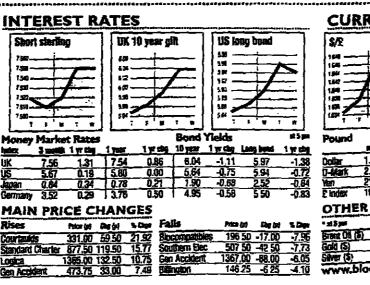
expect a counter bid but would look at any significantly higher offer in the interests of shareholder value. A spokesman said: "If someone offered £350m, you'd have to look at it valued at around £12m. wouldn't you?"

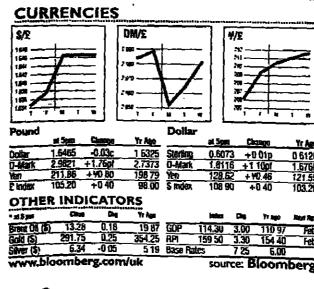
Mr Waterstone is investing £6m in the new company that is buying Waterstone's as we as HMV music and Dillons book stores from EMI. This will give him 4.5 per cent of the new company which will be called HMV Media Group. The other directors, including Alan Giles, the chief executive of Waterstone's and Stuart McAllister of HMV, will invest similar sums giving management an initial 9 per cent stake in business. The deal values HMV and Dillons at £500m. EMI will receive a minimum cash consideration of £362.5m for HMV, plus for-

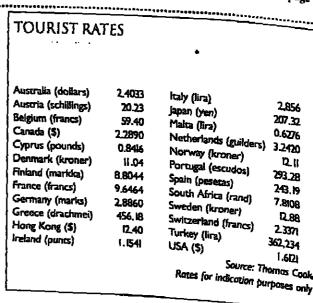
ther payments of £50m. Mr Waterstone will be chairman of the new company and work full-time. His Daisy & Tom children's shops will become the oronn at a later work full-time. His Daisy & Tom

Waterstone returns, page 3









علذا من ألاصل



OUTLOOK ON THE INSURANCE MERGER, THE **OPTIONS FOR GLAXO** AND SMITHKLINE. AND THE PROBLEMS FACING EMI

GRE proves that consolidation isn't the only way

Phew! That's a relief, For a moment there—an independent furrow, refusing to conit looked as if all that fevered stock market speculation about consolidation in financial services was going to come to nought. Now someone's finally gone and done one. No matter that it was dull, boring and predictable. Commercial Union and General Accident have taken the plunge and others must surely follow.

Assuming their respective bosses don't do a Richard Sykes, 3,000 people will find themselves out of a job and those fine old names will disappear behind the suitably anonymous sounding initials, CGU, Well anything's better than Commercial Accident, isn't it? As a sop to the tartan lobby. general insurance is to be based in General Accident's home town of Perth, but the head office comes to London as usual - so much more handy for the globe trotting aspirations of the new model CGU executive.

It's easy to be cynical. To be fair, it's also hard to fault the industrial logic of this merger. The moment Sun Alliance and Royal Insurance got together, the pressure was on Commercial Union and General Accident to respond, CU is known to have flirted with alternatives, notably the collective insurance interests of BAT Industries, but for reasons never explained, those talks fell through at the eleventh hour. General Accident seemed the natural partner after that, Its chief executive. Bob Scott, a no nonsense Australian, also provides a solution to the succession problem at Commercial Union.

But it doesn't have to be this way. Round at Guardian Royal Exchange. John Robins doggedly sticks to ploughing

template all the many offers he must have had to merge or be taken over. Judging by yesterday's reported 40 per cent leap in profits and a promised £189m buyback, the approach is beginning to work like a dream. Under Mr Robins, Guardian Royal has been almost wholly reconstructed. Rather than trying to be all things to all people, GRE has played to its strengths, growing rapidly in direct insurance, private health insurance and various other specialist areas of the market.

The rush to consolidation isn't everyone's cup of tea, nor, as Mr Robins is proving, is it necessarily the best route to

Living with visionaries

Hostile takeover bids rarely deliver value to shareholders in the company doing the bidding. This is well researched and well known. Because the acquirer is forced to pay a premium for his target, most if not all the value created by the merger tends to get eaten up by the ac-

Most managements have taken this truism on board, and despite the best endeavours of investment bankers, whose fees rise exponentially when a transaction goes hostile, tend as to avoid contested takeovers wherever possible. Merger mania these days is characterised not by the swashbuckling, financially engineered takeover battles of

the 1980s, but by agreed, no premium strategic get togethers.

All of which would make it very difficult for Glaxo Wellcome to go hostile against SmithKline Beecham, as some in the City are urging it to. If Glaxo was forced to pay a bid premium, it might end up giving all the benefits of the merger away to SmithKline Beecham shareholders. There would be nothing left in it for Glazo. On the now unagreed "friendly" merger terms, for instance, a premium of

just 10 per cent would be worth £5hn. A

more usual bid premium of 20 per cent

would mean £10bn of extra value going

to SmithKline Beecham shareholders.

Glaxo doesn't employ Sir Richard Sykes for him to work for Smithkline shareholders. Plainly it wouldn't be worth his while to go this route. There might, however be another way of salvaging the £13bn of value that was wiped from the two companies' share prices when the merger talks collapsed, and that would be for Glaxo to go hostile with the original no premium bid terms.

If this is as good a merger for both companies as the City seems to think, why not just allow Glaxo to takeover Smith Kline on the original terms, sack Jan Leschly and his team, and let Sir Richard inject his own managers and culture through the SmithKline organisation. With one bound, the issue of who runs the show, if that were the problem, would be solved.

Such an outcome would not on the face of it be of any less value to SmithKline shareholders than the originally agree terms. The obvious riposte to this is that Mr Leschly

would fight it, or find a white knight prepared to bid more. But if Mr Leschly can demonstrate that there is more value in alternatives, then he should never have agreed the Glazo merger terms in the first place.

The logic suggests that Glazo is in with a chance - that it could go hostile on a no premium basis and still hope to win. This, however, is not what is going to happen. The argument may be intellectually sound, but in the real world it doesn't work that way. And there are good reasons why it doesn't. The chief executive can never be the whole company in large successful organisations like Glaxo and SmithKline, but he is a vital part of it. It is his (or very occasionally her) competitive instinct and vision that drive it forward.

Investors cannot expect successful managements just to stand aside and let their turnmies be tickled just for the sake of supposed shareholder value. Until the world is run by machines, personal and cultural incompatibility are always going to stand in the way of mergers, however compelling their industrial logic. Nor in the end would investors have it any other way. For without these mad, driven, usually autocratic visionaries, their companies would be nothing.

EMI's husband and wife soap opera

Ken and Nancy Berry lead colourful lives on behalf of EMI over in the US of A. Late night parties at Los Angeles Opium

Den, visits to the Vault, one of New York's flashest clubs, nipping backstage to hob nob with U2 and offering their Bel Air home as a crash-pad for itinerant rock stars. These are just some of the chores

that fill up their working day. But that, as they say, is rock'n'roll. The question is how much longer the rather more sedate Sir Colin Southgate and the rest of the EMI board are inclined to put up with it. As President of EMI Recorded Music, Mr Berry is one of the most powerful stars in the EMI firmament and one of the executives identified only last May by Sir Col-

in as "the next generation of management". He is also an ally of his direct boss, "Lucky" Jim Fifield, who until last Friday looked assured of taking over the helm from Sir Colin and then handing it on in four years time to Mr Berry. Sir Colin's decision to deprive Lucky of his prize has created a crisis of succession at EMI. If not Mr Fifield and his protegé, then who?

This would be bad news at any time. But with a company that has performed as abysmally as EMI since demerger, its shares having fallen by more than a third. it could be terminal. Before the demerger. EMI was tipped to be taken out at an astronomic premium. Now it is beginning to look as jaded as its star band. The Spice Girls, who incidentally, also got their first hig break on the Berry's Bel Air patio. Sir Peter Walters and Sir Graham Day, two of EMI's non-executive knights, may not be hip with the beat like Jim, Ken and Nancy. But unless they persuade Sir Colin to skip to it and sort out the management succession, he and EMI are toast.

Oftel ready to appoint successor to **Cruickshank**

By Michael Harrison

A SHORTLIST of four candidates, consisting of two academics, one consumer watchdog and a senior civil servant, has been drawn up for the top job at Oftel, the telecommunications regulator.

Don Cruickshank is quitting the £138,000-a-year post at the end of March and the appointment of a successor is thought to be close.

The four candidates are Sue Slipman, director of the Gas Consumers Council, Dermot Glynn, former head of National Economic Research Associates in the UK, Martin Cave, Professor of Economics at Brunel University and an adviser to Oftel, and Jim Norton. chief executive of the Government's Radio Communications

Mr Cruickshank's successor will join Oftel at an important moment with the Government about to unveil a wide-ranging shake-up of utility regulation. er responsible for business

It is also preparing to issue a discussion paper in the next month examining whether Oftel's functions should be incorporated into a wider regulator body encompassing the whole field of communications, including media.

Ms Slipman has raised the profile of the Gas Consumers Council since arriving in October 1996 and would be well qualified to carry through the Government's objective of making consumer interests a priority for each of the regulators. But there are question marks over her experience of regulation and business.

Mr Glynn founded the UK arm of Nera in 1985 but left just before Christmas after a dispute with the consultancy's American owners, he has now set up a new consultancy called European Economic Research.

Mr Norton has worked at both BT and Cable & Wireless, where he was a regional manager and then general manag-



Oftel succession: (clockwise from top left) Don Cruickshank, who is leaving the top job, and shortlisted candidates Jim Norton, Dermot Glynn and Sue Slipman

development. In his current job he is responsible for allocating the radio spectrum.

Mr Cave has advised Oftel for a number of years on economics, fair trading issues and price controls, including the latest BT price formula. He is also vice-principal of Brunel and a member of the Mononolies and Mergers Commission and has advised other regulators including Ofgas and the Brussels competition author-

ity DGIV. Mr Cruicksbank completes his five year stint as director general of telecommunications at the end of next month. He has taken up the part-time post as chairman of the Prime Minister's Millennium Bug campaign but is looking for a full-time job in the private sec-

give evidence next month to the Commons Select Committee on Culture, Media and Sport, setting out his view on the future of regulation.

Weather evaporates £244m of BG profits

INDEPENDENT

INDEPENDENT

£10 Conran lunch

The Independent and Independent on Sunday in association with Terence Conran are

delighted to offer readers the opportunity to enjoy lunch or early evening supper at

six of London's top restaurants throughout January and February for £10

From Monday January 5th until Saturday February 28th, the following

establishments are offering readers a two course lunch or early evening supper for

How to Book

To participate in the offer simply collect one token (tokens will be printed every day until Sat-

urday February 28th) and then telephone the restaurant of your choice quoting yourself as an

Independent diner. On your arrival at the restaurant you should present your token in order

to qualify for the offer. Each token is valid for a complete table booking. The tokens will be

valid for one week only, and will be dated accordingly. To continue to participate in the offer.

simply collect a token from the week in which you wish to dine. Pre-booking is essential and

all bookings are subject to availability.

A special discount is available on selected items in the Bluebird and Le Pont de la Tour shops

on presentation of the token.

just £10 per person.

By Michael Harrison

BG, the demerged pipeline arm of British Gas, warned yesterday that global warming could have serious ramifications for the health of its shareholders as its profits wilted in the unseasonably warm weather.

The company's 19 million domestic customers turned down the central heating in their droves as the thermometer went up, punching a £244m hole in operating profits last year.

The impact of the warm weather was made worse by price cuts introduced on 1 October which reduced revenues at its pipeline arm Transco

by a further £130m. In the final quarter of the year Transco's operating profits slumped by 45 per cent to £253m.

However, cost reductions in

the main gas business and a £170m turnaround in BG's exploration and production arm more than compensated to leave 1997 operating profits £127m higher at £1.148bn.

David Varney, BG's chief executive, described last year's warm weather as "a big surprise and disappointment". but added that it was a cyclical fluctuation.

The company had not abandoned its long-term view of weather patterns and said global warming could only be

measured in fractions of degrees.

The new price curbs, under which BG's pipeline charges are falling by 13 per cent, will wipe £400m from revenues this year. BG will also have the additional costs, currently running at £200m a year, of preparing its network for full competition in the domestic gas market this

Disposals during the year netted a £288m profit and further asset and property sales this year are set to bring the total raised to well over £1bn.

Staff cuts are expected to yield a further £50m in savings this year on top of the £48m

achieved last year. BG is reducing the 16,000 strong workforce by 2,500 and has so far identified 700 job cuts.

Mr Varney indicated BG had further scope for share buybacks following the £1.3bn share repurchase completed last year. But he said the company would wait to see the Government's Green Paper on utility regulation, due out next month, before deciding raised £811m from which BG whether to change its capital structure further.

> BG has authority to buy back another 10 per cent of its capital which, at last night's closing price of 310p, down 13.5p, would cost it another

n in the

الوميس كالفيد و

The Control of the Control

~ a. 10.

Te des

The state of

and here

.... W. (14) . . . si 132

ver Grade's pay

Government plans super-regulatory panel for utilities

The Government is proposing to set up a supervisory panel for the utilities, reporting direct to ministers and overseeing the work of the individual regulators for the gas, telecoms, electricity and water industries, writes Michael Harrison. The proposal is contained in the Green Paper on utility regulation, due to be published by the President of the Board of Trade, Margaret Beckett, next

The panel would be comprised of representatives from the regulatory bodies, civil servants and members of the "great and the good" according to one senior regulatory source.

consistency to the way the regulators - Offer, Ofgas, Oftel and Ofwat - deal with their respective industries. Mrs Beckett is also understood to favour replacing the individual regulators with regulatory commissions, to remove personality clashes from their dealings with privatised utilities such as BT, British Gas and the regional water and electricity companies. However, it is not clear whether this will be made a firm proposal in the discussion document. The paper is expected to canvass some type of formula for taxing or capping what are deemed to be "excess" profits at the utilities.

The aim behind the panel is to bring greater

Mr Cruickshank is due to



Mezzo



Courtaulds shares soar on three-way-split plan

By Andrew Yates

COURTAULDS, the troubled chemicals to coatings group, yesterday announced plans to split itself into three in response to a collapse in its market value. The break up plans caused its shares to leap more than 27 per cent to

331p.
The news came as Courtaulds announced 500 job losses at its fibres and chemicals business in Coventry and Derby in an effort to improve margins which have been hit by the strength of the pound.

Courtaulds plans to demerge its coatings and scalants business. which is a world leader in the marine and aerospace industries, within the next few months. The group has also put its poly-

Courtaulds will be left as a pure chemicals and fibres group, producing acrylic and viscose as well as Tencel, the first man made fibre to be in-

vented for 30 years.

Gordon Campbell, chief executive of Courtaulds, said: The world and his wife were telling me that the sum of our parts were worth more than the whole. On a personal note there is an element of disappointment. In my 18 months as chief executive I have tried to pull thing together but at the end of the day this is about

shareholder value." Courtaulds has been beset by problems over the last few years. The strength of the pound has hit profits and the economic turmoil in Asia has mered sales of Tencel.

Bulmers warns on profits after fall in Christmas sales

By Andrew Yates

THE beleaguered cider industry was dealt a fresh blow yesterday after HP Bulmer, the UK's biggest eider maker, admitted that Christmas sales had fallen sharply. Shares in the group tumbled 9op to 310p after the group warned that profits for the current financial year are likely to be around 25 per cent lower than the £29.3m it

made in the year to April 1997. Bulmer blamed a flood of cheap beer lager imported by supermarkets over Christmas which seduced drinkers away from cider. The strength of the pound and lower duty rates on the continent have tempted the likes of Asda, Tesco and Sainsbury to look overseas for cheap beer which they have bought over to Britain in huge quantities.

John Rudgard, chief executive of Bulmer, said: "It is the first time I can ever remember that beer was cheaper than cider at Christmas. A litre of beer was selling for 70p while a bottle of Strongbow was selling for £1_30."

Bulmer also made the mistake of increasing the price of White Lightning, its strong cider brand. It was forced to make an embarrassing U-turn and slash prices again after volumes collapses as rivals chopped their own prices.

Last year was an annus horribilis for the cider industry. Bulmer's shares have collapsed from a peak of 626p and its present woes come in the wake of a profit warning from Matthew Clark.

This voucher entities the holder and all members of their booking to participate in The Independent/Contan Restaurants (10) lunch offer

The Independent offer is available at the following restaurants:

Bluebird 350 King's Road, London, SW3 5UU

Lunch 12noon 3pm, early evening supper 6pm - 7pm

Blue Print Café The Design Museum, 28 Shad Thames, London, SE1 -2YE 0171 378 703 (

Lunch 12moon - 3pm, early evening supper 6pm -7pm*

Le Pont-de la Tour Bar & Grill 36d Shad Thames, London, SEI 2YE Lunch 12noon - 3pm, early evening supper 6pm -7pm

Mezzo 100 Wardour Street, London, WIV 3LE

Lunch 12000n - 3pm. early evening supper 6pm - 7pm closed Saturday lunchtime, open Sunday 12pm - 4pm

Quaglino's 16 Bury Street, St James's, London, SWIY 6AL Lunch 12noon - 3pm, early evening supper 5.30pm - 6.30pm

Zinc Bar & Grill 21 Heddon Street, London, WIR 7LF 0171-255 8899

The offer is available 7 days a week at all six restaurants

0171-559-1000 0171-403 8403

INDEPENDENT INDEPENDENT

falid becween Saturday February 21st and Friday February 27th

between Monday and Wednesday the offer is extended until 1 mm*

The special 3 course menu is available between 12noon and 7pm

* Closed from 5pm on Sunday Offer not available after 5pm on February 14

THE INVESTMENT COLUMN

EDITED BY ANDREW YATES

of Courtaulds

THESE DAYS the City resounds with cries for "shareholder value", so it was only a matter of time before Courtaulds did the decent thing and decided to break itself up. Over the last five years the coating to chemicals group has underperformed the market by almost 80 per cent. With few signs of things getting any better, the case for a demerger was hard to ignore.

The important question now it how to value the separate businesses.

The coatings and sealants business is Courtaulds' star performer. A world leader in the marine and aerospace markets, the division has sales of just under £1bn a year and makes an operating profits approaching £100m.

Putting it on a similar rating to international rivals, it is probably worth anywhere from £1bn to £1.3bn. Courtaulds already claims it has had a flurry of interest from bankers for the polymers division which has put up for sale.

In a competitive auction the group could get a price at the top of the £200m

The break-up value to £300m range the City is predicting. The tricky part comes in assessing the

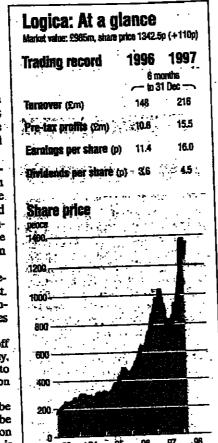
value of the chemicals and fibre business and in particular Tencel, the "wonder" fibre that so far has had a less than wonderful impact on profits.

Courtaulds has poured £300m into developing Tencel but the economic crisis in Asia has caused sales to collapse and the business is losing money. Tencel could eventually come good. It certainly has competitive advantages over other fibres, the potential market is huge and competition is still limited.

However sales in Asia are likely to remain poor for the next six months at least. If you throw in Tencel for free, the chemicals and fibres division, with annual sales of £875m, is still worth at least £400m.

Adding all that up and knocking off £430m of debt, Courtaulds is worth, say, from 325p to 350p a share, compared to a closing share price of 331p, up 59.5p on But the final break-up value could be

much higher. Predators must already be circling the coating and sealants division and may strike before the business is floated. Courtaulds shares still look reasonable value.



Logica allays investors' fears

INVESTORS who sold Logica shares at the time of the information technology group's profit warning last June must be kicking themselves. Since touching a low of 674p they have doubled in value. Judging by yesterday's interim results, which showed profits rising by 46 per cent to £15.5m in the half year to December, that rise is fully justified Investors were so impressed they pushed up

warning was prompted by a recruitment shortfall, which raised fears that the company's growth would be restrained by skills shortages. Those worries now look cent on staff numbers up by about a third. from the brink

Chief executive Martin Read waxes lyrical about his strategy of aiming the company at three key markets - finance, telecoms and utilities - while concentrating on projects which can be repeated several times over in different countries. So, for example, Logica is selling systems developed for the UK electricity industry - especially those designed to cope with competition in the domestic electricity market - to utilities in the US.

base it can sell its services to, has low marthe telecom software supplier Logica cent, increasing to 18 per cent in current bought last year, lifted revenues by 61 per trading. tomer base. Further deals, especially in the

US, are a priority going forward. Despite their meteoric rise, Logica shares still trade at a discount to other forecasts predict full-year profits of about nesses sold last year. The £16m loss on these heady levels, other companies' rat-£40m - a forward p/e ratio of 34. Still, at

Wickes is back

FOR A company that was on the brink retailer have almost doubled over the past cessful the concept will be rolled out had a remarkable run. Shares in the DIY year, closing up a further 4p at 300p yes- across the estate. terday on the back of a return to profitability and the first dividend payment for two-and-a-half years.

Wickes has been helped by a recov-Acquisitions chipped in profits of ering housing market but its perfor-value.

£1.66m on sales of £18.3m. The French mance has still been impressive. Its business, which gives Logica a customer gross margins have improved from 28.2 per cent to 30.3 per cent over the year while like-for-like sales rose by 10.2 per

Insurance

WARNET SETURI

The stores have enjoyed a recent boost efits of cross-selling to Logica's existing cusout more DIY enthusiasts than at this time last year but Wickes is still performing ahead of the industry average.

The shape of the business is now more simple, with the last of the non-UK busiing sales faster than its payroll. Last year's warning was a recompanies are more likely to fall than Logica's red in the year to 31 December. But profits from continuing operations improved

The company is still doing well at the heavy end of the DIY market but feels it is missing out in the decorative sector. To address this it is testing refits in six stores that will stock an additional 500 lines in all coverings and floorings to grab a little market share. This risks fighting of extinction 18 months ago, Wickes has

On upgraded profit forecasts of £25m this year, the shares trade on a forward rating of 13 if a full tax is assumed. With a bid still possible the shares look decent

At Business Link we offer the widest range of business services, expert advice and information.

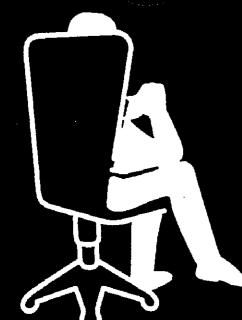
To contact the Business Link that serves your area call 0345 567 765. It's where you go from here.

www.businesslink.co.uk

Could we show more profit?

Could my staff be more efficient?

Could we sell more?



YOUR BUSINESS HAS COME A LONG WAY. SO WHERE DO YOU GO FROM HERE?

BUSINESS SUPPORT SERVICES FOR WALES. SCOTLAND AND HORTHERN INCLAND CAN ALSO BE CONTACTED THEOROR THE BUSINESS LINK NUMBER.

Bradford & Bingley pricing aims to keep banks at bay

Bradford & Bingley building society yesterday said it would maintain a pricing approach which would save its members £105-110m in 1998. John Smith, Bradford & Bingley's finance director, said the society would maintain a £2m-a-week rewards scheme. "We are confident that throughout 1998 we can maintain that permanent differential," Mr Smith said of the society's savings and borrowings rates relative to those of the banks. Bradford & Bingley reported an increase in pretax profits for 1997 to £93.9m from £88m.

Vardon reveals £125m plan

Vardon, the leisure group that owns the Sea Life and London Dungeon attractions, yesterday unveiled an ambitious £125m investment programme rapidly to expand its health and fitness business over the next three years. It is also looking to open attractions in Europe, including new Dungeon in Edinburgh and another in Holland or Germany. To help fund the investment Vardon sold its Parkdean Holidays business to Rank Group for about £35m. This follows the sale of its bingo operations late last year. It also reported pretax profits - after an exceptional charge of £3.7m relating to the bingo disposal - for 1997 of £12.3m, up from £12.1m.

Générale moves into media

Générale des Eaux, the French water and construction conglomerate, yesterday confirmed plans to move into media through an alliance with Havas, the advertising and publishing group in which it took a 30 per cent stake last year. The two companies will discuss the deal at separate board meetings on 9 March, though Générale said the terms of any agreement - which is likely to involve shares and cash - would be based on Tuesday's closing share prices.

Ryanair to launch six routes

Low-cost airline Ryanair is to start low-fare scheduled services on six new routes this summer. The routes are from London Stansted to the three Italian destinations of Venice, Pisa and Rimini, two French routes to Carcassonne/Toulouse and St Etienne/Lyon, and to Kristianstad/Malmo in Sweden. Ryanair said the new services would increase its network to 26 routes and reduce dependence on the Irish market. It said its fares would reduce the cost of travel to the new destinations by up to 80 per cent.

Wickes restores dividend

Wickes, the home improvement retailer, said yesterday its current year had started well, with like-for-like sales up 18 per cent. The firm, which was hit by an accounting scandal, reported a return to profit of £9.5m last year, before tax and a goodwill write off of £16m relating to disposals. It proposed a dividend of 2p a share. Bill Grimsey, the chief executive who took over after the accounting debacle, said strong cash flow had enabled the repayment of the firm's debt and to 📥 restore a dividend, last paid in 1995.

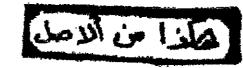
Radamec slips over inquiry

Shares in Radamec Group plunged 29p to 57p after it said an apparent understatement of the cost of sales in one of its subsidiaries has come to light, which it said might have a negative impact on pre-tax profit in the region of £900,000. "This is being urgently investigated by the company and its auditors and a further announcement will be made as soon as possible," the electronics equipment company said.

Shanks buys in Belgium

Shanks & McEwan, the waste management company, is huying four Belgian waste management firms wholly or partly owned by French firm Sita for £67.2m. Shanks & McEwan plans to raise at least £24m to help finance the purchase through a placing of 15 million new ordinary shares at not less than 160p per share. It expects the acquisition to enhance earnings immediately.

	Turnover £	Pre-tax (EPS	Dividend
BWD Securities (F)	18.25m (15 97m)	3 3m (2 5m)	11.1p (8.6p)	7.5p (6.0p)
Domalek Hunter (F)	65.75m (50 71m)	9 6m (8.6m)	18.8p (16.3p)	7 920 (7.20)
Finelist (1)	175.1m (87.2m)	14.5m (7.1m)	12 Bp (9 9p)	27p 2.2n
GRE (F)	- (-)	872.0m (618.0m)	85.5p (45.9p)	7 6a
Inveresk (F)	130.8m (146.0m)		7.0p (2.6p)	5 79p (5.79p)
Jacques Vert (I)	19.5m (23.3m)	-2.5m (-4.8m)	-16.1p (-48.5p)	7 (3.7 dp)
Lincet (I)	12.2m (12.5m)	2.5m (1 6m)	18.2p (10.3p)	3 80 (3 20)
Logica (I)	216.3m (147.9m)	15.5m (10.6m)	16.0p (11.4p)	4.5
Parity (F)	202.1m (162.1m)	13.5m (10.1m)	20 9p (15.8p)	3 40 (2 Re)
Prodestial (F)	· (-)	1.17ba (1.61bn)	43.3p (73.4p)	19 1p (17 3p
RPS Group (F)	20 5m (18.5m)	3.8m (3.0m)	12.2p (16.6p)	4 8p (4 Up)
Ryland Group (F)**	499 6m (374 4)	6.1m (4.3m)	13.8p (9.37p)	4.40
Soutie (F)	18.9m (16.5m)	-20 7m (-19.1m)	-26.6p (-25.0g) ru
Standard Charter (F)	- (-)	970.0m (870.0m	61.7p (55.5p)	18.50 (14.50
Tenny Law (I)	8.54m (7.85m)	-0 519m (-1.16m) -3 4p (-5.8p)	(H)
Frank Usher (1)	(1.5m (10.5m)	1.0m (1.1m)	9.4p (9.7p)	4 Op (4 Op)
Vardon (F)	97.9cn (77,4cn)	12 3m (12.1m)	6.1p (8.0p)	2.4p (1.9p)
Verity Group (I)	14 6m (23.6m)	-2.6m (-1.4m)	-0.9p (-0.6a)	nii Taranj
Wickes (F)	554 Om (584.9n	i) +6 5m (-55.7m)	-9.1p (-135.	i=100.



Insurance deal starts a wave of speculation frenzy

MARKET REPORT



ı 🦻

Fr Tar

DEREK PAIN

THE STOCK market went bid crazy. The long awaited insurance deal inspired another wave of frenzied speculative action among financial shares, helping Footsie to score a 94.1 points gain to 5,745.1, just 6.5 from its peak.

As the shares of Commercial Union and General Accident, merging to create the country's biggest insurer, fell back, GRE and Norwich Union led others higher as the market sought to spotlight the next deal.

GRE, helped by betterthan-expected figures and a £189m handout to shareholders, rose 34.5p to 475p. At one time it was CU's expected partner. Norwich climbed 21.75p to 496p. The shares were, shortly after last summer's flotation, trading at 312p.

Royal & Sun Alliance gained 27p to 778p and Prudential Corporation, again with the help of figures, ended 40p up at 934p. Underlining that it is often better to travel

than arrive GA fell 85p to 1,370p and CU 35p to 1,095p.

On the banking pitch Standard Chartered starred yet again. The shares surged 124p from Morgan Stanley, the US to 882p on a surprisingly group. soothing trading statement which tended to highlight the bank's attractions, both on trading and takeover consid-

erations. 543p. They have since risen on bid speculation as well as regroup looked a sitting duck; it gained 110p to 2,310p and 42p is unlikely the more exotic to 2,642p respectively.

price will frighten off a bidder. Lloyds TSB gained 32p to 1,897p. Abbey National put on mer building society also pro- tracting attention. duced corporate activity.

with its results next week.

Schroders, still family controlled, was by current standards quite subdued, up 9p at 2,142p. Whispers point to a bid

The two bickering drug giants staged a modest recovery with suggestions in the air that Glaxo Wellcome could mount a hostile bid for Last month Standard's SmithKline Beecham. Glaxo shares were bumping along at gained 81p to 1,738p and SB 42p to 766p. Nycomed and Zeneca, regarded as bid covery hopes. At 543p the fodder in the present climate.

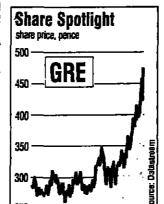
Telecoms, another area where there is a huge expec-934p and Barclays 38p to tation that corporate action will unfold, were active. Colt 33p to 1,320p. Year's figures climbed 80p to ring a new are due today and in the pre- 1,150p peak. BT, up 4p to sent highly fired mood it 602p, and Vodafone, 7p highwould surprise few if the for- er to 539p, were others at-

Engineer GKN, where bid Halifax, up 3p at 924p, could hopes have appeared recently, also be gearing up for action added 40p to 1,496p and bewhiskered old faithful Allied

Domeon frothed 22p higher to 570p. Others caught up in the corporate speculation included Signet, up 0.75p at 36.75p.

Besides merger mania Footsie was spurred by a strong New York opening and the continuing recovery in Asian markets. Supporting indices stretched to new highs.

Elsewhere Courtaulds, the chemical group, gained 59.5p



to 331p on its reshaping which, it is felt, will make it more vulnerable to a bid. Logica, the computer group, jumped 132.5p to 1,365p following results, encouraging other IT

Utilities remained subdued on regulatory fears. Anglian Water sunk 26p to 792p and Hyder 6.5p to 907.5p. Southern Electric, with the added hangover cure called Resolve, disadvantage of Deutsche held at 553.5p. Morgan Grenfell caution, fell

40p to 510p. Bass added 21p to 1,012p. Merrill Lynch upgraded the shares to "accumulate" following the £1.8bn Inter-Continental Hotels & Resorts distributor, gave up 16p to

acquisition. A profit warning from HP Bulmer, the cider maker, ket maker had cut the share soured the shares 96p to 310p price to generate business. and a half year loss at Acatos & Hutcheson, the edible oil group, left the price 36.5p down at 225p. An apparent £900,000 loss at an offshoot lowered electronics group

Radamec 29p to 57p.

Photobition, the printing

services group, firmed to 303_5p ahead of an investment dinner at London's Savoy Hotel, hosted by stockbroker Henderson Crosthwaite. Scotia, the drugs group, raising £50m through a convertible issue, was firm at

325p; Seton Healthcare, pay-

ing SmithKline £4.75m for a

Faber Prest, a distributor, jumped 90p to 455p. Bid talks, seemingly with the management, are near completion. A

500p offer is expected. Dawson, the newspaper 155p, prompting the company to express annoyance a mar-

House builders put on a good showing following the George Wimpey results. Wimpey rose 5p to 122p. NatWest Securities expect profits of £80m this year and

£96m next.

Greenwich Resources rose 2.25p to 21.5p after chairman Colin Phipps described its 20 per cent interest in Desire Petroleum as a "significant asset". Westmount, also with 20 per cent, gained 13p to 166.5p. Next month SG Securities intend to place shares in Desire which has the largest acreage off the Falkland Islands. Its off shore portfolio is equivalent to 30 North Sea blocks. Wells have yet to be drilled. The first of five is due in April or May. SG calculates a core value of £45m for

Tricorder Technology, traded on Ofex, has attracted the support of the 3i investment group. It has a 13.98 per cent stake following a £1.75m cash raising exercise. Amadeus Capital, which numbers Microsoft among its backers, has 4.19 per cent. Shares of the 3-D scanner developer were sold at 47p; they are now 42.5p.

런 & Bingley pricing keep banks at bay

reveals £125m plan

le moves into media

buys in Belgium



| Simple | S

EMU could be a Trojan horse carrying reform into Europe



DIANE **COYLE** ON THE LIKELY **IMPACT OF** THE SINGLE **CURRENCY**

TROJAN horses are seen as an unpopular or dangerous meaopposition, but your perspective depends on which side you are European currency be just such an underband device for forcing structural reform on the members.

member economies? And if so, is it a good or a bad thing? is going to derail the single currency now. There will be intense scrutiny of the detailed convergence reports due at the end of over the presidency of the European Central Bank and the Euro-X council and copious amounts of market analysis of the conversion exchange rates. But too much political capital has been sunk, and too many businesses in Europe have spent real money on preparing for

it not to happen. So the time has come for serious economists to stop pontificating about whether or not they think EMU is a good thing - heaven knows, there has been enough of this since 1992 - and turn instead to what impact it

the launch on 1 January 1999, for

is one of the biggest leaps policy-makers have ever taken. an economic experiment on a continental scale. Even the most apocalyptic pessimists must admit that it is fascinating.

The list of pros and cons the Europhile and Europhobic camps have put forward during the period of polemic is a good place to start with the analysis. however. Start with the benefits. As one of two new papers* from Merrill Lynch, the investment bank, points out, there is a powerful economic force driving the EMU project, namely the discovery among close trading partners that the cost of varying exchange rates has threatened the benefits of free movement

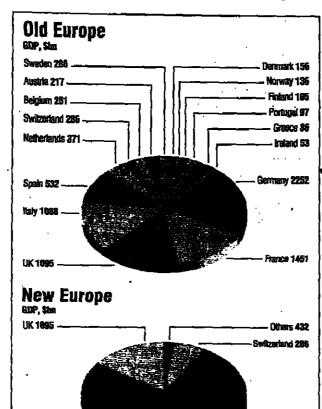
of goods and capital. Author David Miles, professor of economics at Imperial College and an adviser on unfair means of sneaking some EMU to the Treasury Select Committee, notes that many sures past an unsuspecting European governments have already given up independent control of their interest rates for on, of course. Could the single this reason. Forming a single currency will further reduce the barriers to trade between

And what gains will this bring? Essentially, two. One is As Britain's presidency of that the most efficient compathe EU during the crucial six nies in Europe will be able to months for the decisions on do more business, boosting eco-EMU gets into its stride, it is clear nomic efficiency in the EU as that nothing short of a cataciysm a whole. The other is that companies will be better able to exploit economies of scale. There is convincing evidence that the smaller scale of output in next month, and much jockeying Europe explains a large part of the productivity gap between

> described in a recent column. One implication is that in the short term, EMU would provoke more consolidation and restructuring, with consequent pains of adjustment - a point also picked up in a recent UBS strategy circular to clients**. But in the medium term the scope for improved prosperity (because higher productivity means higher real wages) is immense.

> Europe and the US, as I

Professor Miles says it is not the grandiose political goals such



rather economic conditions. "They make a single currency for many European countries the

best system," he writes.

The anti-EMU forces accept the scope for gains from increased trade and a genuine single market in principle, but argue that the benefits are likely to be swamped by the disadvantages of losing an independent interest rate policy. It is probably true that in many or most member countries the level of rates will be less suited to local economic conditions more similar. Richard Bronk, its than before. This is why noted doubters like Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England, would like to see more convergence in the underlying economic structures of the potential members before

EMU goes ahead. This argument usually fuels the view that the disparate beas making a European war for- haviour of member economies ever impossible that are driving struggling under the yoke of a is going to have. After all, this the single currency forward, but common interest rate would

of many economists and politicians in the continental European countries. They argue that Eddie George-style worries about structural differences between member countries are overdone because EMU itself will be the catalyst for convergence.

would try to adjust in other

ways. If competitive devaluation

is ruled out, governments will

have to try competitive struc-

tural reforms to make their in-

dustry more dynamic, their

workforces more flexible.

"EMU might represent a

Trojan horse containing the

forces of supply-side reform

This is, increasingly, the view

and deregulation."

Excellent news, then, for those who believe that if Britain ens on the side of inequality and unfairness, then the Continent errs on the side of over-regulation and lack of competition. They will be clambering aboard the single currency Trojan horse. But this is not to say that it will be a painless process. In some countries there will be resistance to enforced flexibility,

perhaps on the streets. Just as with the other potential EMU benefit of increased productivity, there will be losers as well as gainers, even if the Enropean economy as a whole stands to benefit. What's more, the start of the single currency will in itself constitute a big economic shock - just think of the fall-out from German unification, or from the shock-therapy of deregulation in Britain during the

Source: UBS Global Research

lead to either the inexorable de-

velopment of a federal Europe,

with big tax and subsidy trans-

fers between member coun-

tries, possible pressure for

protectionism to defend Euro-

land against the outside world

and ultimately the political

Lynch documents notes that

there is an alternative: that

EMU will act as a Trojan horse

for supply-side reforms that will

make the member economies

author, argues that there is no

political impetus behind this

supposed process. Nobody in

Europe has a big appetite for in-

creasing the EU budget - rather,

the reverse, as the prospect of ad-

mitting new entrants in central

the flexibility to adjust to shocks

when exchange rates are irrev-

ocably fixed. Governments,

companies and employees

Yet the EMU zone will lack

Europe draws closer.

But the second of the Merrill

union of Fortress Europe.

Thatcher years. It might well be that eventual convergence will only follow a period of diverging performance by the member economies, depending on how much adjustment they have to make. This certainly does not mean the Eurosceptics are right, even if they are irrelevant. Sometimes long-term gains are worth short-term pain.

* Fundamental Economic Implications of EMU by David Miles, 17 February, and EMU: A Trojan Horse by Richard Bronk, February.

** Europe: The Big Picture by Mark Howdle, January 1998.

PEOPLE & BUSINESS

JOHN WILLCOCK



A BRACE of former Tory ministers picked up non-executive directorships yesterday. Angela Knight, former Economic Secretary to the Treasury, has joined SAUR Water Services, the parent of Mid Southern Water and South West Water, while Baroness Chalker of Wallasey, former Minister of Overseas Development, has been appointed an advisory director of

SAUR has also given a non-exec job to The Baroness Detta O'Caithan, who made such a performance of heading up the Barbican

Centre in London. Unilever has appointed Hilmar Kopper, former top spokesman for Deutsche Bank, as an advisory director. Baroness Chalker is filling the seat of Karl Otto Pohl, former Bundesbank boss, on the advisory board, and she will become a member of the Anglo-Dutch giant's external affairs and corporate relations com-

ANOTHER former Tory MP to gain preferment this week is Dudley Fishburn, former member for Kensington and an ex-editor of The Economist. Mr Fishburn has been picked to take over from David Keys as chairman of HFC Bank UK, the door-to door credit operation, when Mr Keys retires in September. Mr Fishburn has been a director of HFC, apart from a short break, since 1989.

BUT IT'S not just Tories picking up the prizes. Labour peer Lord Brooke of Alverthorpe, former general secretary of the Inland Revenue Staff Federation (TRSF), has joined accountants Horwath Clark Whitehill.

Before you ask, the ex-Revenue man will not providing clients with inside knowledge of tax avoidance schemes. Clive Brook, ennobled last autumn, will be working with "charities, education and owner-managed businesses, and will also provide Parliamentary advice," says the firm.

Peter Salter, Horwath Clark Whitehill's chief executive, says: "We welcome Lord Brooke's help and advice, which will enable us to develop our services into an increasingly valuable area for clients."

ABN AMRO has snapped up the three-strong building sector research team from the bit of BZW recently gobbled up by CSFB Howard Seymour and Harvey Robinson were in the top four of the Reuters, Extel and Greenwich charts for the last three years, while Scott Folton is a

more recent arrival from Merrill Lynch. Incidentally that's ABN Amro without the former Hoare Govett on the end. The venerable City name Hoare Govett followed James Capel and Morgan Grenfell into the history books a month ago. Just Hoare Govett Corporate Finance survives in the UK to fly the flag

Meanwhile Brian Cook has entered the rotating doors of CSFB's offices in Canary Wharf in the opposite direction, joining the investment bank as head of European corporate banking. Mr Cook, 39, was previously head of BHF Bank in the US, where he specialised in leveraged lending.

He will report jointly to Christopher Carter, head of European corporate and investment banking, and Mark Patterson, managing director, investment banking division leveraged finance.

WHEN is a bostile bid really hostile? This question occurs to me as WH Smith sells off its Waterstone's chain to EML announces a share buyback and sees its share price hit 473.5p. When Tim Waterstone launched his "hostile" bid for the chain six months ago using corporate finance team Peter Thompson and Andrew Bracey of SBC Warburg, WH Smith's share price languished at 370p. The company's boss Richard Handover huffed and puffed and declared that there would be no change in

strategy. Now he appears to have implemented the Warburg duo's strategy to the letter, and the share price is positively blooming. Perhaps Mr Handover should send Messrs Thompson and Bracey a bottle of bubbly for their troubles?

A CAMBRIDGE-based firm has just published what it claims is the most expensive history book ever, at a mere £600 a pop. Yuki -Twenty Years has been commissioned by the famous Japanese-born clothes designer, now based in Britain, called Yuki.

Appropriately enough during British Fashion Week, the book, featuring lavish illustrations and only the most expensive paper and bindings, celebrates Yuki's 20 years in the rag trade. Yuki designed clothes worn by the late Princess Diana during one of her visits to Japan, I am told. Meanwhile the publishers, Book Production Consultants, are celebrating their own Silver Jubilee this year, but they say their own commemorative book will be a more modest affair.

THE STATE OF THE S

ASH & LACY. West Midlands metal bashers. have appointed David Probert chairman-designate to succeed David Fletcher on 19 May following the group's annual general meeting. Ash & Lacy said Mr Probert is due to retire as an executive of W Canning shortly before taking up his new role, but he will continue as non-executive chairman of W Caming.



948 19240 12900 17300 18770 18770 18770 Buy 17: 417:50 1202:00 1203:00 139:10 197:80 1 207:50

Blay Yed Fund

\$20,90 064 Extra Mecome
\$20,90 193 Extra No. Acc.
\$21,00 193 FISE 100 Acc.
FISE 100 Acc.
Gentler General General Comment Acc.

Judge: 'treat the evidence of Thompson with caution'

By Greg Wood

THE JURY in the Top Cees libel case was warned yesterday to "treat with caution" the evidence submitted by Derck Thompson, the Channel 4 Racing presenter, when they retired to consider their verdict.

Mr Justice Morland was summing up the evidence on day 18 of the libel action brought against The Sponing Life newspaper by Jack and Lynda Ramsden and the champion Flat jockey, Kieren Fallon. The plainheaded "Contempt For The Punter", published the day after it amounts to a confession."

HUNTINGDON

2.15: The veteran JIM VALENTINE. tenham's New Course when 20 who came back to his best form when a creditable threequarters of a length second to Well Timed in a 3m 1f 110yds handicap chase at Wincanton last time, looks fairly handicapped on that form and can go one better. The Cay, a course-and-distance winner, in-form Nocatchim is in winning form and is the logical danger. $\Box\Box$

2.50: THE FRENCH FURZE, best at sort who may have a lot of further ima mile on the Flat, probably failed to provement in him, jumped well and

Chester Cup in May 1995. It al- he said, was that the alleged ness for the defence. "He is a the Swaffham Handicap at Newmarket three weeks earlier.

evidence of Thompson, who testified that Fallon had told him Top Cees, the favourite for the Swaffham. "You should treat this evidence with caution," he told the jury. "Only after careful consideration must you act tiffs are suing over an article on it, when you are satisfied of its truth and accuracy and that

stay the testing 2m 11 on Chel-

lengths third to Sound Appeal and

Real Estate in December. He will be

much better suited by this easier track

and, in what looks a softer assignment,

can return to winning form. Misty

might be the one for the forecast.

3.25: SIERRA BAY, a progressive

leged that they had been "cheat- conversation had taken place ing when Top Cees failed to win nearly three years ago, and Justice Morland said that the Morland also pointed out dis- he became an expert witness?" defence "strongly relied" on the crepancies between the reported conversation and that dence of a second expert witness. which had been submitted to the that he had deliberately stopped court as part of the preparation for the case. "You may well

> about the evidence of Jim Mc-Grath, a director of Timeform and also a Channel 4 presenter,

HYPERION'S

TV TIPS

made all the running to beat Peg-

marine by 13 lengths over today's

consistencies throw serious

doubt on what he said."

The reason for his warning, who appeared as an expert witprofessional communicator," he said, "Was he too quick with the jury's first important task, he that Thompson had not made ready riposte? Was he already bia note of it at the time. Justice ased against Mr Ramsden before The judge praised the evi-

Alan Amies, senior race-reader with Raceform, publishers of the form book, had testified think," he said, "that these in- that Top Cees could have won the Swaffham if he had been ridden with "more urgency". The The judge also raised doubts judge said that "his opinion is important, because it was reached before the Chester Cup, and be-

fore the article was published."

WINCANTON 2.05: There was little between MAN-DYS MANTINO and Zabadi over hurdles, but the selection has adapted better to fences while Zabadi has looked increasingly reluctant. Mandys Mantino's long absence from the track is a worry, but he defeated the useful Chief's Sone on that occasion and is suited by fast ground.

STRONG PROMISE, who made

One Man pull out all the stops at Asout last time, does not win this on the way to the Cheitenham Gold Cup. He is not proven over the trip but stayed

3.10: WAHIRA SANDS has had only three runs over hurdles but was useful on the Flat and remains a Champion Hurdle hope. He was better suited by easy ground on the Flat but performance last time.

hest of some out-of-form rivals.

000

said, was to decide "whether Mr Fallon deliberately and dishonestly failed to scize" a seven-second gap which appeared during the Swaffham, in order not to obtain the best possible placing for his horse. If so, they would then have to

"seriousness of the accusation"

in the article was "obvious". The

decide whether "it is conceivable that Mr Fallon would have done so except under the instruction of Mr and Mrs Ramsden."

the plaintiffs' case proved successful. Mr Morland offered



some guidance to the jury. He said that the amount of any award should reflect the damage to the plaintiffs' reputation, and suggested that "a sum of less than £50,000 for each plaintiff would be niggardly, but more than £125,000 would be

extravagant". The jury retired to consider its verdict at 3,10pm. At 4,30pm, On the matter of damages if no verdict had been reached, and its deliberations will continue today.

may be able to cope with these livelier conditions over imps. Master Beveled is certainly better on soft and is inferior to the selection on Flat well as a novice hurdler and is well form. His Agfa Hurdle win last

> 3.40: CAPENWRAY is the least exposed of these over fences and, despite a bad mistake put up his best

slowly run, while L'Opera, though

suited by the ground, is inconsistent

Strong Promise in Gold Cup gamble today, was yesterday backed from 16-1 to 10-1 with Coral for Cheltenham. He is one of of 27

Mr Justice Morland: warning

STRONG PROMISE, whose ful chasing debut at Leopardstown over Christmas. Gold Cup credentials and stay-There are 32 in the Chaming ability is put to the test in the Jim Ford Chase at Wincanton

pion Hurdle, with the novices French Holly, Grey Shot and Zaralaska left in pending a decision on their ultimate targets. horses left in the Gold Cup at

Mulligan and Jeffell are the most notable omissions in a field of 14 remaining in the Queen Mother Champion Chase.

Cheltenham withdrawals Gold Cup: Benjo, Coome Ha, Corles, Denci, Pentus, Gitter Isle, Harwell Lad, Hermes Harvest, Imperial Cell, Sperky Gayla, Unguided Missia.
Champion Hurdle: Carino Brigante, Cockney Lad, Cool Edge, Gazalari, Indefence, Kayaara, Mr Percy, Potentiale, Prince Babar, Pubhahunish, Saleet, Silver Wizard.

Rubhahurish, Safeet, Silver Wizard.
Queen Mother Champion Chaes: Call
Equiname, Jeffel, Merthe's Son, Muligan,
Time Worl't Welt.
Stayers' Hurdle: Christchurch, Cockney Lad.
Conquering Leader, Cyborgo, Deano's
Beeno, Escarisfique, Folly Road, Fulyame
Crest, House Captain, Jack Button, Large
Action, Roseberry Avenue, Sanmartino,
Sohrab.

First show

notable absentees.

Winc	anto	n – :	3. JO	
Horse	C	H	_ L	
Water Sands	11-4	5-2	11-4	5-2
i'm Supposin	3-1	11-4	3-1	3-1
L'Opera	7-2	3-1	10-3	10-3
Moster Baveled	41	9-2	4-1	9-2
Chal-Yo	11-2	8-1	π-2	13-2
Humbel	12-1	10-1	11-1	10-1
Sally Scally	150-1	E 0-1	150-1	200-1
Ench-way a h	dh the o	dds, pi	206S, 7,	2
C Coral H - WE	am HELL	- Ladb	oles, T	- Tota

RICHARD EDMONDSON

NAP: Wahiba Sands

(Wincanton 3.10) NB: Double Oscar

(4.10 Lingfield)

yesterday's acceptance stage.

The injured Coome Hill, Dano-

li and Imperial Call are the most

Dardjini will miss the Arkle

Trophy Chase at the Festival.

Noel Meade has been unable to

run Dardjini since his success-

Winca	nto	n — 3	3.40	
Horse	C	_ H	L_	1
Mr Strong Gule	2-1	94	2-1	9-
Dividi Dencer	3-1	11-4	5-2	114
Сарапулау	5-1	4-1	9-2	74
Tellicherry	13-2	13-2	6-1	6-
Redecayourseli	9-1	9-7	9-1	11-1
The Mine Captain	12-1	9-1	12-1	12-1
Art Prince	9 -1	12-1	14-1	71-1
Koo's Promise	25-1	40-1	33-1	40-1

Wincanton 2.05 Mandys Mantino 2.35 Strong Promise

3.40 CAPENWRAY (nap)

3.10 Wahiba Sands

و و ساند ن

~

N. 12 Selb" 5"

سسسد. المعنف ا

HYPERION 4.15 Benatom 4.50 Supermick 5.20 Speedy

GOING: Good (Good to Firm in places).

GRING: Good (Good to Firm in places).

GRING: Hand, galloping course. Run-in of 200yds.

Gourse is NE of town on B3081. Templecombe station (service from Lor

4m. ADMISSION: Cabb £14; Tattersalis £9; Course £1. CAR PARK: Free

A. ADMISSION: Cabb £14; Tattersalis £9; Course £1. CAR PARK: Free

The Course £1. Care £1. Care £1. P. Nicholite £9: 139 (20)

 ELADING TRAINERS: M Pipe 36-14 (25%), P Nicholfs 29-39 (20%), J Giffont 5-70 (21%), Mrs J Pimman 14-62 (225%), R Aliner 14-104 (135%), P Robbs 14-109 (28%) ELADING JOCKEYS: R Dumwoody 25-120 (208%), A P McCoy 18-99 (82%), T Dascombe 10-82 (122%), G Bradley 9-36 (25%), A Maguire 8-53 (151%). EAUNITIES: 188-435 (386%). BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Zabadi (205).
2.05 GEORGIE NEWALL NOVICE CHASE (CLASS D) C4
1 1FIBPS STORM RUN (17) (D) (BF) (Mrs Penny Michell) P Nichelle 8 (2 0

MANDYS MANTINO has always looked the type to make a decent chaser and it was good to see him open his chasing account at Chehanham (good to firm) in October on his return. It will be interesting to see how Zabadi shapes in the first-time birthers and to looks better than Storm Ruin, who won on his fenong bow at Hereford in October and also went in at Aintree but was a faller in between and firshed well beaten when

	could go well .	Selection: MANDYS M/	
į	2.35 JIM FORD CHALLENG £17,500 added 3m 1f 11	E CUP CHASE (CLASS B) Oyds Penalty Value £11,925	C4
	1 11-4PP BUCK JAKES (USA) (83) (Arcadia S	Stable) T Forster 10 11 12	soody Dobbi
	3 2-43P EUDIPE (FR) (33) (DA Johnson) M	Pipe 6 11 7 7 11 7	P MCCO Marmeo
	5 4PP-34 DEXTRA DOVE (96) (C) (D) (Dexte	Lighting Systems) R Alber 11 11 2	3 Powe Murch

6 /mP-3 GENERAL CRACK (113) (CD) (BF) (P Barber & J Keghlay) P Notices 9 ft 2_T J seurphy - 6 declared -BETTING: 8-13 Strong Promise, 7-2 Eurlipe, 7-1 Go Ballistic, 10-1 General Crack, 20-1 Destra Dove,

BETTING: 8-13 Strong Promise, 7-2 Euripe, 7-1 Go Balliette, 10-1 General Crack, 20-1 Deaths Dove, 33-1 Buck, Jarkes
1997: Coone Hill 8 if 2 J Osborne 7-4 (W Dennis) 7 ran
FORM GUIDE

STRONG PROMISE is difficult to oppose even though his stamina has to be taken on trust. He won six races last term – three of them when only five – including a defect of One Man in the Cornet Chase at Assot and a fine deplay to see of Geles Cavalier and Viling Flagshap over two miles five at Chetierham in April. Geoff Hubbards six-year-old was in the lead and traveling strongly only to make an uncharacteristic bad missake three out – his jumping is normally a real pay to watch – in the Cupen Mother Champion Chase and he was clearly not himself when tailed off last of four finishers on his single by at today's trip in the 1996 King George. Strong Promise, runnier-up to One Man in the Comet two weeks ago on his return, will have come on for that run, his first in fan months and, according to trainer's assestant Chris Kinene, who rides him is most of his work, has been "crying out" for this extra half-mile Eudige may be the one to chase Strong Promise home. Binkered for the first time when fourth to Suny Bay at Haydock in November on his resuppearance, Marrin Pipe's French-bred also were them test time when pulled up at the same track, but he goes without the headgear this time, just as he did when third at the same track, but he goes without the headgear this time. Just as he did when third to Suny Bay in the Hernessy on his penutitinate start. Selections STRONG PROMISE

ı	to Surry Bay in the Hermessy on his periodic start. Selection of the
	3.10 AXMINSTER 100 KINGWELL HURDLE (Grade 2) C4 (CLASS A) £30,000 added 2m Penalty Value £18,840
1	3.10 (CLASS A) £30,000 added 2m Penalty Value £18,840
- 1	APMSZ
- (
1	
1	3 31P2- MUMBEL (USA) (*11) (Sea Jany) 0 21P2- MUMBEL (USA) (*11) (Sea Jany) 0 21P2- MUMBEL (USA) (*11) (D) (Nicholas Coopen) R Rowe 6 11 2
	5 4F-SP2 L'OPERA (FR) (26) (U) (Shekki Arines Ar Marinolli) Silvania a silvania

course and distance last month. He looks capable of following up. Not My Line, another in good form, looks the 2.35: It will be a major surprise if most potent threat.

3.40 LADBROKE HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS D) £10,000 added 2m 5f Penalty Value £7,133 - 8 declared -

		us scorer Casing Wat at Uttobase. Selection: MH STHONG GALE
4	1.15	MERE MAIDEN HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,000 added 2m Penalty Value £2,794
1	0000	BAEY LANCASTER (200) (M Griffin) M Griffin 7 to 5
2		BENATOM (USA) (15) (T F Herrs) D Esworth 5 11 5
3		CLEAR WATER (27) (W E Gale) J Gifford 6 11 5 P Hide
4		COLONEL JACK (1929) (J W Musell) R Hodges 6 11 5
5		DANTEAN (91) (G Michen 8 D Oils) R O'Sulivan 6 11 5
6		GAZUMPER (NZ) (28) (R B Derny) J King 5 11 5 J Cullety
7		IAMRIS (15) (M P Burkes 5th Family Settlement) D Nicholson 5 to 5 Magnito
8		JACK (110) (J Hetherell) J Tuck 6 11 5
9	5	LENANGO (GER) (215) (B Reber) C Von Der Recke (Ger) 5 17 5
10		MAC OATES (F51) (D N Larke) P Hedger 5 11 5 Michards
11		PROUD MONK (F37) (S J Edwards) M R Bosky 5 11 5T J Murphy
12	055/24	SOL MUSIC (82) (The G & P Partnership) J King 6 11 5
13		AFON ALIWEN (P177) (Riple Two) P Hobbs 5 to 0
14		BANDORE (F155) (C McKerne) M Blanshard 4 TO 8
15	0	INCLUDE ME OUT (16) (W.J. Gredey) M Pice 4 109
16		NOBEL LAD (F121) (James Hartnett) M Pipe 4 10 8
17		TIMOTHY GEORGE (73) (Theo Weddington) G Balding 4 10 9 B Fertion
18	5	WOODY'S BOY (27) (Vic Woodescri) M Heaton-Ellis 4 12 9
		- 19 deciared -
		7-4 Benutom, 9-2 Ismus, 11-2 Sci Music, 9-1 Nobel Lad, 10-1 Lenengo, 12-1 Aton Al-
_	a Mary	String Joseph Ha Part 16-1 Moor Point 18-1 Partition 20-1 others

BETTING: 7-4 Benstorn. 9-2 lengus, 11-2 Sai Music, 9-1 Nobel Led, 170-1 Lentingo, 12-1 Aton Al- won, Clear Water, Include Me Oct, 14-1 Masc Outes, 10-1 Dentean, 20-1 others 1997: The Flying Phanton 6 11 5 R Durwoody 5-1 M Tomplans) 18 ran				
4.50 ILCHESTER HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,000 added 2m Penalty Value £2,416				
1. 0/10-5 ROUTING (77) (D) (Derek Jones) N Ayellie 10 11 10				
2 3045 WHAT A PUSS (66) (Mrs Denies Shefres) Miss H Knight 5 11 8				
3 1FF143 SUPERMICK (10) (D) (BF) (P Carle) M Pipe 7 11 7 A P McCoy				
4 2FF-PU PRIDEWOOD PICKER (10) (D) (Mrs B Morre) R J Price 11 11 0				
5 56-112 STORM TIGSER (10) (D) (BF) (A F Partnership) 5 Medior 7 10 10				
6 324 SILVER SECRET (103) (F.J. Sansbury) M Heston-Elle 4 10 9				
7 3-1075 CLASSIC PAL (USA) (17) (D) (P C Tory) N Methel 7 10 9				
8 5-065P RUN FOR COVER (82) (Mrs Nervs Dutfield) Mrs P Dutfield 6 10 9				
9 53U0m GLOWING PATH (1) (D) (P State) R Hodges 8 10 13 (6ex)				
10 4-3630 MYSTIC HILL (89) Lieck Josephi R Frost 7 104				
11 POOF30 QAKMONT (28) (Simon Gegg) M Sheppard 5 10 0				
12 F-540P DTOTO (56) (B P Jones) R Baker 6 10 0				
- 12 declared -				

Minimum weight: 10ct. True herolicap weights: Detation 9st 5th, Diato 8st 13th. BETTING: 5-2 Storm Tiger, 100-30 Supermick, 7-2 Glowing Path, 7-1 Silve HBI, 12-1 What A Fuse, Routing, 14-7 Classic Pat, 20-1 others 1997: Always Happy 4 10 1; A Magaire 7-2 jt fav (Gay Kelloway) 20 ren

2 2F-U05 CHAI-YO (61) (D) Puck Viney J Old 6 11 2	HBI, 12-1 What A Fuss, Routing, 14-1 Classic Pal, 20-1 others 1997: Always Happy 4 10 tt A Maguer 7-2 tt fav (Gay Kellowsy) 20 ran
4 0-2945 TM SUPPOSIN (19) (U) (NETDER COURT) IN FLORE D Methodor 5 11 2	
5 4E-SP2 L'OPERA (FH) (26) (U) Sneam nimes or watering) J Dunlop 5 11 2	5.20 GOLF COURSE STANDARD NH FLAT RACE (CLASS H) £1,500 added 2m Penalty Value £1,271
7 40885 SALLY SCALLY (DC) (COMMUNICATION - 7 declared -	1 2: ESTATE AGENT (159) (T and J.A. Curry) P Nicholis 5 11 11L.Curerains (5)
27 declared - BETTING: 3-1 htt Supposin, 100-30 Wahlbe Sands, 7-2 Master Beveled, 4-1 L'Opera, 6-1 Chai-Yo,	2 ANDON (Don Hurtord) R Hodges 6 11 4
44 s Limster 900-1 Sully School	
1997: Dreems End 9 11 10 R Durreroody 16-1 (P Boven) 8 rsn	4 2 GURU REPOCHE (14) (P A Tyler) R Flost 6 11 4
FORM GUIDE	5 0-0 MASTER HARRY (183) (Robert Historia) Mrs J Pitmen 6 11 4
WAHIBA SANDS, atthough only a novice, can outgun his more seasoned rivals. This WAHIBA SANDS, atthough only a novice, can outgun his more seasoned rivals. This WAHIBA SANDS, atthough only a novice, can outgun his more seasoned rivals. This	6 NORMANTHESTRAWMAN (As Jan Proces) P Shekespeere 5 11 4
WAHIBA SANDS, atthough only a novice, can output the length at Leicester on former useful Flat racer stammed 5-1 on chance Zeralesta five length at Leicester on former useful Flat racer stammed 5-1 on chance Zeralesta five length at Leicester on former useful Flat racer stammed 5-1 on chance Zeralesta five length at Leicester on former useful Flat racer stammed 5-1 on chance Zeralesta five length at Leicester on former useful Flat racer stammed 5-1 on chance Zeralesta five length at Leicester on former useful Flat racer stammed 5-1 on chance Zeralesta five length at Leicester on former useful Flat racer stammed 5-1 on chance Zeralesta five length at Leicester on former useful Flat racer stammed 5-1 on chance Zeralesta five length at Leicester on former useful Flat racer stammed 5-1 on chance Zeralesta five length at Leicester on former useful Flat racer stammed 5-1 on chance Zeralesta five length at Leicester on former useful Flat racer stammed 5-1 on chance Zeralesta five length at Leicester on former useful Flat racer stammed 5-1 on chance zeralesta five length at Leicester on former useful Flat racer stammed 5-1 on chance zeralesta five length at Leicester on former useful Flat racer stammed 5-1 on chance zeralesta five length at Leicester on former useful Flat racer stammed 5-1 on chance zeralesta five length at Leicester on former useful Flat racer stammed 5-1 on chance zeralesta five length at Leicester on former useful five length at Leice	7 05 SHAGREEN (19) (J L Duntop) J Duntop 5 11 4
his hundling debut and tollowed up by debut states for the Souther Souther I are tour lengths	8 00- SPANISH SSCRET (273) (M.J. Horizni) M Pipe 6 17 4
a enoting at Ascot, He was giving / to to the way and has because a fact-around Flat win-	9 SPEEDT IN A THISION-DEVISED IN THISIDINGS 5 TI 4
too and at Wetherby. But his was well and the blands by six lengths from Shadow	10 620- STAR ADVENTURE (281) UT Exerci J Exerci 6 11 4
ner Meeter Beveled won tile very streny to the and and and on a fact surface. He	11 TOLA COLA (Lady Cobhern) E L Jernes 5 Ti 4
Leader - Mareto and Salatta in District The distriction I'm Supposin	2 TURN OF THE TIDE (Pers Builer) N Mitchell 5 11 4
will be the one to beat if it easin develops into a spirit. The champion Hundle) finished fifth of six at Sandown, beaten nearly nine lengths, flourth in the Champion Hundle) finished fifth of six at Sandown, beaten nearly nine lengths,	
flourth in the Champion Hurdle) finished fifth of six at Sanound bears in the Lichard butwoody takes the ride, L'Opera but would go close if back near this best and Richard Durwoody takes the ride, L'Opera but would go close if back near the ride and only a neck to Mr Percy at Cheltenham and	14 O.O TAFZALETTE (18) (P Wegmann) P Wegmann 8 10 13
but would go close if back near yhis best and Richard Dunknooy stated the hard ran his best race in ages when going under only a neck to Mr Percy at Cheltenham and ran his best race in ages when going in Supposin, who linished a distance in front of	5 BEST BOY (Steve and Helen Dusting) P Hobbs 4 10 8
mining with respect to the state of the stat	16 PASSWORD (Mrs J S E Turner) M Stunders 4 10 3
Lie Lan a contro leconitie il siu le les comme	= 16 declared -
Chail Vo. work Will 1970 Will 1970 1987 1970 1970 1970 1970 1970 1970 1970 197	BETTING: 3-1 Estate Agent, 4-1 Speedy, 9-2 Fountain Bank, 11-2 Gunu Rimpoche, 12-1 Best Boy,
and and bod with think of the last last the same and was single bottles out	Sheller Street to sell behavior district the bit to be desired at a conse
out and had won three of his five previous tass less season, make eight lengths behi- ers. However, he has shown no spartile at all this season and was eight lengths behi- ers. However, he has shown no spartile at all this season and was eight lengths behi- ers. However, he has shown no spartile at all this season and was eight lengths behi- und I'm Supposin when last of five to Kerawi at Kermpton. Selection: WAHBA SANOS	1997 Notsy Miner 5 11 1 Fl Miessey (3) 15-8 fev (D Nicholson) 17 ran
und I'm Supposin when lest of live to repain at least of the	

Huntingdon

1.45 Mr Bojangles 2.15 Jim Valentine

2.50 The French Furze 3.25 Sierra Bay (nb)

GOING: Good (Good to Firm in places). GDINES GOOD ID 1978 II passed,

Right-hand, level course Run-in 200yds.

Course is at junction of A1 and A604. Huntingdon station (service from London, King's Cross) 1m. ADMISSION: Members \$13; Paddock \$10; Course St. CAR PARK: free.

suited by the going. Endipe may be time is suspect form as the race was

	ELADING TRANERS: K Bailey 24-73 (223%), G Hubbard 17-73 (233%), J Ganoro 15-79 (233%), T Forster 14-59 (237%), Ms M Raveley 11-36 (205%), G March 15-70 (257%), M A Fitzgerald 12-82 (148%), W Marcton 9-63 (143%), A Thornton 8-67 (14%), G Bradley 8-60 (133%), J A McCenthy 7-63 (132%), GFAVOURITES: 224-517 (433%), B BLINICERED FIRST TIME: Strong Mint (145), Nescaf (visored) (215).
	1.45 SAWTRY FEN NOVICE HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS E) £2,900 added 2m 4f 110yds Penaity Value £2,898
	1 OP-011 Mark 90-JANGLES (96) (D) (Mrs D Lousada) I Williams 7 11 10
	2 OAS2-6 MADAM'S WALK (83) (Mrs. J. Mould) N Twiston-Davies 8 11 6
i	3 323361 SOLDIER MAK (12) (Rose And Crown, Boylestone) J Mackie 5 11 5 E Husband (3)
	4 233 SCARROTS (15) (Million in Mind Partnership (7)) N Henderson 4 11 4
	5 164440 CLAIRES DANCER (17) (Mrs Claire Hollowcool) A Turnel 5 11 3
	6 U5-650 MISS BERTAINE (36) (T Darmal) N Callaghan 9 to 1
	7 340 KOATHARY (USA) (36) (Edward Hervey) A H Hervey 7 11 0
	8 4500 VITESTERN CHIEF (B) (Miss B W Palmer) D Williams 4 10 11
	9 -DA302 NOFEMANIA (NZ) (20) (Meurice E Pinto) Mes S Edwards 6 10 8
	10 DOP GENERAL ACADEMY (56) (Mrs M E Curts) J Curts 5 10 8
	11 OC-50P STRONG MINT (28) (J Good) Mrs M Reveloy 7 10 4P Niven B
	12 20310 AFFECAN SUN (12) (Noel Fletcher) M Chapman 5 10 2
	13 40-004 WANSTEAD (27) (TH Oursley) J Jenkins 6 10 ?
	94 40-00P FEAR CLISTE (41) (Frank Arthur) R Rone 7 102 Laurence
	15 643 HEUBACH BOY (58) (K.B. Philon) J. Pearce 4 100
1	16 PO360P KNOCK STAR (19) (John Marks) T Bil 7 10 0
	17 - OS2PO NEFAAF (USA) (28) (A A Penney) K Margan 6 100
	18 3F4-0P POSITIVO (57) (L.Gibert) Mess C Caroe 7 10 0
	19 18F6 CHOPPN (F35) (John A Bowyer) K Wingrove 4 10 0
	20 50P BRONHALLOW (89) (Mrs J Feenck B Cleak R Parker) Mrs B Wennig 5 10 0 E Byrine B - 20 declared -
- 1	

Ì	ton. Bayings deciring to represent the control of t
	2.15 HORSELEY FEN HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS E) C4
	1 LIZP2P6 CHURCH LAW (21) (D) (Mrs L C Taylor) Mrs L Taylor 11 11 12
	2 4P-FFP URANUS COLLONGES (13) (Hatewood Int) Mrs L Williamson 12 to 10
ı	3 222325 PERUMAN GALE (17) (D) (J L Watharik) Was S Smith 9 to 0
	4 P3041 NOCATCHEM (14) (C) (Richard Chandler) K Morgan 9 to 13
Ì	5 D-1634 NESCAF (NZ) (5) (Tim Clowes) R Rows 8 10 8
ı	5 443352 JM VALENTINE CB (Nrs T Protraid) Dr P Prithard 12 10 6
	7 40-083 SLEETMORE GALE (28) (D) (D O Walsh) T McGovern B 10 0
	8 P-4235 SAMBNORELLO (83) (Nats S.A. MacEchern) N Twiston-Devies 7 10 ()
	9 4P-4P6 NEGHT FANCY (16) (Mrs Ann Woodrow) Mrs A Woodrow 10 10 D
Ì	- 9 dectared -
Į	Minimum weight: 10st. True handings wearts: Streemore Gale 9ct 12th, Semmorello 8ct 11th, Ninte Fen-

BETTING: 5-2 Sammorallo, 7-2 Pertivien Gale, 5-1 Jim Vale

FORM GUIDE

Considering his stable hardly had a winner before Christmiss, SAMMORELLO can be given credit for running Aller Moor to a short head in a novices' handicap chase at Wincoanton in November, especially as that was his first run over fences. With the yard going well and improvement fleely, Sammorelo could be ready to fulfill that early promise and his guaranteed stamina means he should last home better than Nocatchian, who would have had to settle for second at the last meeting if felicherry hadro blandered away a winning lead. An easy winner for David Wintle at Market Rasen in August, Jim Valentine carried 4th overweight when a close second to Well Timed at Wincanton a month ago. On his last visit to Huntingdon, back in November, Jim Valentine was besten less than two lengths when a staying-on third behind High Learle and Cook Hill, so he can be given every chance, along with Peruvian Gale, well suited by this of trip on last ground and in an easier race than the one in which he finished suith behind Ask Me Later at Newcastle last time.

	2.50 CHATTERIS FEN HURDLE (CLASS C) £5,500 added 4YO 2m 110yds Penalty Value £4,203							
	1	126113	THE FRENCH PURZE (76) (D) (BP) (Jim Breis) M Pige 11 2					
	2	333	GOING FOR BROKE (164) (Watchost Record) C Marin 10 12					
1	3	6 0	GREEN POWER (26) (Decales Limited) J Farishees 10 12					
1	4		1 SEE YOU SYONEY (AUS) (F14) (K S Lee) M Polgiese 10 12					
	5	P	SOUTHERLY WIND (66) (Lady Lloyd Webber) O Sherwood 10 12					
1	6	P	SWYNGORD CHARMER (F15) (Qualtur Holdings Limited) J Hetherton 10 12					
-	7		THAHE (F204) (Or C W Ashpole) J L Hams 10 12 A S Smith					
1	В	22117	MESTY CAY (77) (CD) (Mrs V C Ward) Mrs V Ward 10 TI					
	9	00	WHAT HAPPENED WAS (26) (Paul J Dison) M Veade 10 7					
			a destand					

BETTING: 8-15 The French Fuzze, 4-1 Mistry Cay, 6-1 Southerfy Wind, 10-1 Green Power, 16-1 Go-ing For Broke, 33-1 What Happened Wes, 40-1 Thakith, 50-1 others 1997: Kinga Winess 4 10 12 D Bridgweter 6-4 fav (P Nichols) 8 ran

HYPERION 4.00 Wontcostalotbut 4.30 Eirespray

5.00 Wild Illusion

eLEADING TRAINERS: K Balley 24-73 (32.5%), G Hubbard 17-73 (23.5%), J Gutoro 16-79 (20.3%), T Forster 14-59 (23.7%), Mrs M Reveley 11-36 (30.6%).
eLEADING JOCKEYS: P Hide 18-70 (25.7%) M A Fitzgerald 12-82 (14.8%), W Marston
9-63 (143%), A Thornton 8-57 (14%), G Bradley 8-60 (133%), J A McCarthy 7-53 (132%).
@FAVOURITES: 224-517 (43.3%).
BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Strong Mint (145), Nescal (visored) (2:15).
1.45 SAWTRY FEN NOVICE HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS E)
1.45 £2,900 added 2m 4f 110yds Penalty Value £2,898
1 OF-ON MER BIOJANGLES (86) (C) (Nes D Lousada) Williams 7 11 10
2 O452-6 MADAM'S WALK (83) (Mrs. J. Mould) N Tweston-Davies 8 11 6
3 323361 SOLDIER MAK (12) (Rose And Crown, Boylestone) J Mackie 5 11 5 E Husbend (3)
4 233 SCARROTS (15) (Million in Mind Pertnership (7)) Ni Henderson 4 11 4
5 164440 CLARRES DANCER (17) (Mrs Claire Hollowood) A Turnel 5 11 3
6 U5-650 MISS BERTAINE (36) (T Dantall N Calagran 9 11 1
7 340 KOATHARY (USA) (36) (Edward Hervey) A H Hervey 7 11 0
8 4600 WESTERN CHIEF (B) (Miss B W Palmer) D Williams 4 10 11
9 -DA302 NORMANIA (NZ) (20) (Meurice E Pirec) Mess S Edwards 6 10 8
10 00P CHERAL ACADEMY (56) (Mrs M E Curts) J Curts 5 10 8
11 00-50P STRONG MINT (28) (J Good) Mrs M Reveloy 7 T0 4
13 40-004 WANSTEAD (27) (T H Cursiey) J Jerkins 6 10 2
14 40-00P FEAR CLISTE (41) (Frank Arthur) R Rone 7 10 2
5 543 HEUBACH BOY (50) (K B Philon) J Pearce 4 10 0 J Physin
16 POSCOP YOROCK STAR (18) (John Marks) T Bil 7 10 0
17 -052PO NEFAAF (USA) (28) (A A Penney) K Morgan 6 TO 0
18 3F40P POSITIVO (57) (L.Gibert) Miss C Caroe 7 10 0
19 16F6 CHOPPN (F35) (John A Bowyer) K Wingrove 4 10 0
20 50P BRONHALLOW (99) (Mrs J Feerch B Čleak R Parlen) Mrs B Wennig 5 10 0E Byrine B - 20 declared -
Minimum weight: 10sr. Trus handicap weights: Heubech Boy 9st 13th, Knock Star 9st 11th, Nilset 9st 11th, Postivo 9st 8th, Chopin 8st 12th, Bronhellow 8st 10th.

BETTING: 4-1 Sourrots, 6-1 Soldier Mais, 7-1 Miss Bertaine, 8-1 Mr Bojengies, 9-1 Strong Mint, 10-1 Clairt's Danger, General Academy, Madeur's Walk, 12-1 Western Chief, Kosthery, 14-1 Normands, African Sur, Houberth Boy, 16-1 Warstead, 20-1 others
1987: Lody High Sherdi 7 11 1 S Wynne 9-2 (T Foretar) 16 ron

ICAP CHASE (CLASS E) C4	1 2 2 06 3 F
r) Mrs L Taylor 11 11 12	4 i
od inti Mrs L Williamson 12 ft 10	5 -2
nk) Mrs S Smith 9 m O	6
ller) K Morgan 9 10 13	7
A B 10 B	8
Dr P Prechard 12 10 6	9
ish) T McGovern B 10 D	10
em) N Twiston-Davies 7 10 0	11 5
e) Mas A Woodrow 10 10 0	12 53
clared =	13 0
emore Galle 9cz 12fb, Sammorello 8ct 11fb, Hight Fan-	14
•	15
	_

BELT HING: 5-2 Sagneporaus, 7-2 Pervisian (Alex, 5-1 Juni Vasagnas, 7-1 Nesc more Gale, 10-1 Church Line, 20-1 Hight Fency, 25-1 Uraces Collonges 1997: Cetic Barle 13 11 4 S McNeil 10-1 (H Hodge) 12 ran FORM GUIDE

	[2.50	CHATTERIS FEN HURDLE (CLASS C) £5,500 added 4YO 2m 110yds Penalty Value £4,203
ı	1	126113	THE FRENCH PURZE (76) (D) (BP) (Jim Breis) M Pige 11 2
ı	2	333	GOING FOR BROKE (164) (Webbust Racing) C Marin 10 12
1	3	0 0	GREEN POWER (26) (Decales Limited) J Farishane 10 12
1	4		I SEE YOU SYONEY (AUS) (F14) (K S Lee) M Polgisse 10 12
	5	P	SOUTHERLY WIND (66) (Lady Lloyd Webber) O Sherwood 10 12
ı	6	P	SWYNE-ORD CHARMER (P15) (Qualtur Holdings Limited) J Hetherton 10 12 D Byrne
ı	7	-	THAHE (F204) (Or C W Ashpole) J L Hams 10 12 A S Smith
I	B	22117	MESTY CAY (77) (CD) (Mrs V C Ward) Mrs V Ward 10 TI
ı	9		WHAT HAPPENED WAS (26) (Paul J Dison) M Meade 10 7
ı	١.	-	_ G doctored _

FORM GUIDE

Dead ground was put forward as a possible explanation for THE FRENCH FURZE's odds-on detect by Sound Appeal at Chellenham in December. Held cartainly won impressively at Chellenham and Pumpton after long Martin Pipe from Ireland and can bounce back with the ground is in his favour. Mistly Cay is from the yeard that house a Thursh-hurde candidate in City Hall. Only selfing/claiming class on the Flat, Mistly Cay has improved with every outing over hurdes and developed into a useful juvenile, it not in quite same class as The French Furze at this stage. Given a break since beating Scarrots at Faisenham, Mistly Cay needs to be better than ever it she's to trouble the Pipe horse on these terms. Southerly Wind was pulled up in Kibinde Lad's race at Haydock just before Christimas but it would be no surprise to see him leave that nur well behind, especially on this surface. When trained by Lynda Ramsden, Southerly Wind was a useful flat handicapper who fised fast ground, and a win first time of three shows he docen't depend upon a recent sun to get him ready. Use Southerly Wind, Green Power was a winning miler. Going For Broke's efforts in early-season events do nothing to suggest that he'll trouble the favourite.

3.25 LONGWOOD FEN HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS D) 25,000 added 2m 110yds Penalty Value 23,556	
1 115-5 NETHERBY SAID (76) (Mrs S Surier) P Beaumont 8 12 0,R Supp	le l
2 4.85F3 CAPTAIN KHEDINE (7th (th) (Knedve Partnershp) G McCourt 10 11 9	3)
3 4514-1 NOT MY LINE (21) (D) (W F Cauchell) W Cauchell 9 10 to Mr A Sanson	18
4 3P-R1(SERRA BAY (28) (CD) (R Waters) O Sherwood 8 10 6,	Ty
5 614F06 WHO'S TO SAY (10) (D) (Mrs T Pritcherd) Dr P Pritcherd 12 10 3	q
6 13-504 JUST BRUCE (21) (D) (A M Health) Mrs E Health 9 10 3 D Gettagh	4
7 3-3142 NASHVILLE STAR (USA) (15) (D) (Rictin Mathew) R Mathew 7 10 0	¥
8 -54345 CIRCULATION (10) (D) (I N Needows) D McCain 12 10 0	16

- 8 doctared
Minimum weight: 10st. True handicap weight: Circulation 8st 8th. BETTING: 7-4 Sierra Bay, 3-1 Not My Line, 7-2 Nastwille Star, 7-1 Natherby Said, 10-1 Who's Ti Say, 12-1 Captain Khadive, 14-1 Just Bruce, 3-1 Cinculation 1897: Thumbs Up 11 p 7 R Hobson (7) 5-1 (6 McCourt) 5 ran FORM GUIDE

It's probably worth sticking with SERRA BAY, who won a nonces' handicap at Folke-stone before a clear-cut win from Pegmanne over course and distance. Having only his fourth outing over tences here, Serre Bay can be fancied to improve again, but if he needs to have the front-running role to himself he could easily be disappointed with Not My Line and Netherby Said in opposition. A winning hurter chasse last season, Not My Line made at for a comfortable win at Towoester three weeks ago, when Jurat Bruce faded to firish last of four. Just Bruce has a 12th put but shi in the form that enabled him to win at Leicester (meiden) and Sandown (three-runner handicap) last season. Not My Line has much more chasting experience than Sierra Bay and could be a bigger threat than Netherby Said, who is oliving way plenty of welcht and who reoresents a varif that than Netherby Said, who is giving away plenty of weight and who represents a yard that hearn't really got going this season. Having said that, wins earlier this month for Topothenorthracing and Cherry Dee suggests that the Beaumont horses are coming night, so the topweight can't be ruled out. At the other end of the handcap is Nashville Star, who, like Seara Bay, has taken well to jumping fances this term. His second to Seek The Faith at Newbury was a sound effort from 7b out of the handcap and het reunsted with Carl Llewellyn, who won on him at Windsox.

Selection: SEPRA BAY

4.00 PIDLEY FEN MAIDEN HURDLE (CLASS E) £2,900 added fillies & mares 2m 110yds Penalty Value £2,723

_		
1	2/60-2	CLOSE HARMONY (29) (Queen Elizabeth) N Henderson 6 11 5
2	06-0P6	COROMANDEL (6) (Mrs A C Sade) A H Hervey 6 1 5 T Jenks
3	PP4P	DAFFODE EXPRESS (F19) (M J Ryan) M Ryan 5 ft 5
4	P004	DAUGHTER IN LAW (96) (Miss N F Thesiger) Miss C Caron 5 11 5
5	-22543	HURRICANE JANE (17) (Miss Roberts) M J Roberts 6 11 5
6	26	KATHEYN'S PET (57) (EE Brown) Mrs M Reveloy 5 11 5
7		MA BARNICLE (F24) (The Ten Thousand To One Club) P Eccles 5 11 5 Byrne
B	60	MADAM MATCH (82) (Ars Helen Mickley Mrs H Mickey 7 to 5
9	080	NEEDWOOD NUTKIN (61) (Gomet Pacing) 6 Morgan 5 (1 5
Ð		ROSE FLYER (FIO) (A M Packaging Ltd) M Chapman 8 ft 5
Ţ	5-600	RUBY ROSA (14) (P J Hartigan) T Forster 6 11 5
12	530303	STRONG CHOICE (10) (D) (Mrs Sandra McCarthy) J Mulies 6 tt 5
13	OP-PF	THERDERSERD (17) (The Thunderbird Partnership) A H Harvey 6 tl 5 J A McCartley
14	000	TILL TOMORROW (35) (Champ Chicken Co Ltd) D McCain 7 tl 5
15		COCHETI (F14) (The Etyans Club) P Hest 4 10 9
18	0	DANCE MELODY (26) (C.J. Nunni) G Oldroyd 4 10 9
17		ERINRINCA (F51) (Sadles Estate Agents) Mrs L Jewell 4 10 9
16	. 0	LOLITA (FR) (91) (BP) (Southern Courties Finance & Lessing) M Pipe 4 109 C Maude
19	3U5552	MUSTANG SCALLY (12) (F A Dickreson) J Mache 4 10 9
20	LISES	WENT COSTAL CITE IT AM ON THE COSTAL

BETTING: 2-1 Kathryn's Pet, 4-1 Lolla, 5-1 Close Harmony, 7-1 Wontcostnicthut, 8-1 Mustang Scal-ly, 10-1 Harricane Jane, 12-1 Strong Choice, 14-1 Daughter In Law, Ruby Roes, 20-1 Ma Barri-cla, 40-1 others

1997: Nichemira 5 7: 5 D Gelleigher 3-1 lav (T Berron) 22 ran 4.30 EUXIMOOR FEN NOVICE CHASE (CLASS D) 25,000 added 2m 4f 110yds Penalty Value £3,761

5.00 WIMBLINGTON FEN HUNTER CHASE (CLASS H) £1,500 added 3m Penalty Value £1,214

= 6 disclared = Prognon 14 T2 0 Jist R White (5)
BETTING: 5-8 Wild Busion, 7-4 Father Raction, 9-2 Sputflington, 20-1 Glordano, Pant Liin, Script
1997: No corresponding race

Friends 3.35 Narrogin 4.10 Mary Cornwallis 4.40 Brynkir 5.10 Mozambique

Brynkir 5.10 MOZZINTUNGE:
GORKE: Sto. (Alf-weather track)
STALLS: 5f & im - outside; fest - inside.
DRAW ADVANTAGE: Low best 5f & 6f
DRAW ADVANTAGE: Low best 5f & 6f
@Equitack surface; left-hand, starp undering course.
@Equitack surface; left-hand, starp undering course.
@Course is SE of town on E2028. Lingfield station (served by Lo eCourse) is SE of town on E2028. Lingfield station (served by Lo eCourse) is global surface; SI ON EARTH STARP START STA

1	BUNKERED FIRST TIME: NEW PARTY
	1.55 SEA OF H.E.A.T. & BARRIER AIR CON THOMING HANDICAP (CLASS F) (Div I) \$2.5
1	1.55 TONING HANDICAP (CLASS F) (UN I) 12
1	added 1m
	added 1m S Without 69 To S Without

_andon,	3.00 TIONING
zure 210 1988. 51-286 196). (10976).	1 2000. MENDOZA (76) (1 2 400-20 GADGE (31) (CD) 3 23-41 WITHOUT FRENC 4 4400-4 PERSEVERE (12) 5 00005- SUN OTIROL (19
ONDI-	8 05E5- LAUREN'S LAD (7 0-300 ROGER ROSS (18 05-553 CORSECAN (12)
2,500 beeth 4 erison 8	Laurente Lad, 12-1 Mentioza, 3.25 SEA OF H STAKES (
aty (3) 6 abson 7 Rutter 3 Dwyer 5	1 COMMANDER CO 2 00543 MASTER CASTE 2 3523 MARROGEN (USA

| September | Sept BETTING: 6-5 Chingachgook, 9-2 Bon Guest, 5-1 Evecio Ruto, 13-2 Tart, 7-1 Private Audience, 14-1 Docklands Courier, 20-1 Carrolle Marc, 33-1 Little Pligrim

3.00 SEA OF H.E.A.T. & BARRIER AIR CONDI-

Ľ		52.500 added 1m
	24000-	MENDOZA (76) (CD) D Murrey Smith 49 10
2	400-20	GADGE (31) (CD) (BF) A Balley 7 98
ì	23-41	WITHOUT PRIENDS (5) (CD) J Flich Heyes 4 9 7 (Bax) Deen McKeown 2
i	4400-4	PERSEVERE (12) Lord Huntington 494
	00006-	SUN O'TIROL (195) J Amobil 4 8 8
3	(SES-	LAUREN'S LAD (78) G Laws 3 8 5
7	0-300	ROGER ROSS (14) R Flower 3 8 0
t	05-553	CORSECAN (12) 5 Dow 3 7 10
•		- 8 decigned -
		a principal Calculus 7.9 Goden 0.2 Creations 11.9 December 0.1

1.55 SEA OF H.E.A.T. & CLASS F) (Div I) \$2,500	BETTING: 13-8 William Friends, 7-2 Lauge, 5-2 Conscar, 17-2 Parasyers, 5-1 Lauren's Lad, 12-1 Mendoza, 16-1 Roger Rose, 26-1 Sun O'Tirol
TRONING PLANDISCH ST. S. Withworth A. B. A. Delection S. O. O. S. Withworth A. D. Harrison S. O. O. TAYDYULLIN (142) H. Monison 4.98	3.25 SEA OF H.E.A.T. STIEBEL ELTRON MAIDEN

4.10 SEA OF H.E.A.T. & D. B. GREEN HEATING AND COOLING H'CAP (CLASS D) 25,000 added 5f

- 5 dactared -BETTING: 5-4 Double Oscar, 5-2 Many Correvallis, 9-2 Half Tone, 6-1 Lord Sky, 4.40 SEA OF H.E.A.T. CONTRACTORS HANDICAP (CLASS F) £3,000 added 2m

| CLLASS F) 13, UOU 200601 2111
| Remort 6 B | Remort 6 B

RETTING: 4-1 Broughtons Formula, 9-2 Brynklr, 5-1 Coestguerds Hero, 8-1 Row-landsons Chern, 13-2 Zermatt, 7-1 Call by Gotest, Philosophic, 12-1 Signed And Seeled, 14-1 Poste Chain, Kitta 5.10 SEA OF H.E.A.T. DIMPLEX & PETER TREE ELEC-TRICAL H'CAP (CLASS E) £3,750 added 7f

Results

FOLKESTONE POLIKES FORME
2.10: 1. GLOWING PATH (R Durwoody)
11-2; 2. Gentle Tune 33-1; 3. Bigwig 16-1;
4. Halimanerror 7-1 20 ram. 7-2 fav Reservation Rock. /s. 6. (R Hodges, Someron).
Tota: 1830; 2:200, 2:030, 2:20, 2:40, 07-2
18730, 0:35-2
18730, 0:35-2
18730, 0:35-2
18730, 0:35-3
18730, 0:35-3
18730, 0:35-3
18730, 0:35-3
18730, 0:35-3
18730, 0:35-3
18730, 0:35-3
18730, 0:35-3
18730, 0:35-3
18730, 0:35-3
18730, 0:35-3
18730, 0:35-3
18730, 0:35-3
18730, 0:35-3
18730, 0:35-3
18730, 0:35-3
18730, 0:35-3
18730, 0:35-3
18730, 0:35-3
18730, 0:35-3
18730, 0:35-3
18730, 0:35-3
18730, 0:35-3
18730, 0:35-3
18730, 0:35-3
18730, 0:35-3
18730, 0:35-3
18730, 0:35-3
18730, 0:35-3
18730, 0:35-3
18730, 0:35-3
18730, 0:35-3
18730, 0:35-3
18730, 0:35-3
18730, 0:35-3
18730, 0:35-3
18730, 0:35-3
18730, 0:35-3
18730, 0:35-3
18730, 0:35-3
18730, 0:35-3
18730, 0:35-3
18730, 0:35-3
18730, 0:35-3
18730, 0:35-3
18730, 0:35-3
18730, 0:35-3
18730, 0:35-3
18730, 0:35-3
18730, 0:35-3
18730, 0:35-3
18730, 0:35-3
18730, 0:35-3
18730, 0:35-3
18730, 0:35-3
18730, 0:35-3
18730, 0:35-3
18730, 0:35-3
18730, 0:35-3
18730, 0:35-3
18730, 0:35-3
18730, 0:35-3
18730, 0:35-3
18730, 0:35-3
18730, 0:35-3
18730, 0:35-3
18730, 0:35-3
18730, 0:35-3
18730, 0:35-3
18730, 0:35-3
18730, 0:35-3
18730, 0:35-3
18730, 0:35-3
18730, 0:35-3
18730, 0:35-3
18730, 0:35-3
18730, 0:35-3
18730, 0:35-3
18730, 0:35-3
18730, 0:35-3
18730, 0:35-3
18730, 0:35-3
18730, 0:35-3
18730, 0:35-3
18730, 0:35-3
18730, 0:35-3
18730, 0:35-3
18730, 0:35-3
18730, 0:35-3
18730, 0:35-3
18730, 0:35-3
18730, 0:35-3
18730, 0:35-3
18730, 0:35-3
18730, 0:35-3
18730, 0:35-3
18730, 0:35-3
18730, 0:35-3
18730, 0:35-3
18730, 0:35-3
18730, 0:35-3
18730, 0:35-3
18730, 0:35-3
18730, 0:35-3
18730, 0:35-3
18730, 0:35-3
18730, 0:35-3
18730, 0:35-3
18730, 0:35-3
18730, 0:35-3
18730, 0:35-3
18730, 0:35-3
18730, 0:35-3
18730, 0:35-3
18730, 0:35-3
18730, 0:35-3
18730, 0:35-3
18730, 0:35-3
18730, 0:35-3
18730, 0:35-3
18730, 0:35-3
18730, 0:35-3
187300, 0:35-3
187300, 0:35-3
187300, 0:35-3
187300, 0:35-3
187300, 0:35-3
1873

CERTSO, CSP. CEOUTS, Tricost: C2808.23. Tricosts C2808.25. Tricosts C2808. Tricosts C2808.25. Tricosts C2808. Tricosts C2848. SEDGEFIELD

2.60: 1. BERTYLLIUM (A P McCoy) 6-5 ker; 2. George DiBlingham 5-1: 3. Brackenth-watte 20-1 7 ren. ½, 12. (M Ppc, Welfing-ton), Tokes 1900; 5:50, 2200 DF: 5320 CSF: 2320: 1. OWENS OUEST (A Thomton) 8-1; 2. Swing Quartet 1-3 ker; 3. Krallingen 8-1 7 rien. 16, 7. (T Etherington, Melton), Tokes 2700; 5200; 5:20 DF: 5250 CSF: 5:128 NR: What Charge.

F700; 5200, 512 DF: 5250, CSF: 51128 MF: What Chance,
3.50: 1. GROSS CANNON (A Dobbh)
5-2; 2. Val De Rama 11-8 tay; 3. Zamhaner 9-1.5 ram, 14, 21, U Wate, Farryhill,
Tota: 5220; 5170, 5150, DF: 5400, CSF: 5517,
4.20: 1. COOLVAWN LADY (Mr B R Fosstr) 2-1 fay; 2. Royal Banker B-1; 3.
Dalametre B-1; 14 ram, 8, 3. (W Hallday,
Metton Mowbray; Tota: 5280; 5170, 5230,
52.20, DF: 51830, CSF: 51865, Tno: 58480,
NR: Haft Prince,
4.50: 1. MELTEMISON (R Garritty) B-1;
2. Baltamilan Kulgitz 1-8 fay; 3. Hatm What
36-1 11 ram, 4. 8, (M Harmmond, Maddelmm),
Rota: 5220; 5140, 510, 5570, DF: 5230, GSF:
5337, Tito: 51830, NR: My Buster, Sandabar,
Pince 9: 5572, Pince 5: 5246,
WOLVERHAMPTON

2. Ten Cee Kay 11-4 fav; 3. Tomcappagh
33-1 12 ren. 11 17. (Mrs Georgina Worsley,
Crawby), Fote: £100; £250; £210 £310 £310
£520, CSF: £2457. Trio: £132.60
4.40: 1. FUNNY (ERNE () Bellamy) 7-1;
2. Fighting Times 4-1; 3. Daydreemer 7-2
fav. 19 ren. 11/4, 8 (Mrs L. Taylor, Chipping
Wardert Tete: £160; £250, £150, £150, £250
DF: £1340. CSF: £2396 Triosst £1554, Trio:
£3300.
Jackspot: Not won; £3302889 carried forward to Wincenton today.
Place 8: £1724. Place 5: £2448.

2.30: 1. TALLAN SYMPHONY (A McCarthy) 7-2; 2. U-No-Harry £2-1; 3. Zeggy's
Damcer 11-4 fav, 6 ren. Hd. 2 (P Evens) Total
Extra 20: 1. JAMAICAN FLIGHT (C Teegus)
1-2. 20: 1. MASTER OF THE ROCK (E Hasbard) 2-1; 2. Kinds Groovy 6-4 (t fax; 3.
Northern Star 6-1, 7 ran. 9-4 (t fax) Fontaylord; (4th), 1/4, 3/6. (J Mackle, Church
Broughton), Total £1180; £200, £190. DF:
£840. CSF: £3438. Tricast: £2607.

2.00: 1. TRALLAN SYMPHONY (A McCarthy) 7-2; 2. U-No-Harry £2-1; 3. Zeggy's
Damcer 11-4 fax, 6 ren. Hd. 2 (P Evens) Total
Extra 20: 1. JAMAICAN FLIGHT (C Teegus)
1-1; 2. Finestagen 11-2; 3. Monthern 5-2
8 ran. 2-1 fax Stratt Boy, 4.3/6, (Mrs S Lamyman), Total £130; £200, £140. DF:
£840. CSF: £3438. Tricast: £2614.

2770.
4.30: 1. PRINCE ASHLEIGH (C Lowther)
11-8 fav; 2. Netta Ruffina 4-1; 3. Stralet 9-4
4 ran. 174, hd. (P Hastarn). Totes: £180. DF:
£550. CSF: £584.

●BAHAMIAN KNIGHT, sent on 636-mile round trip to Sedgefield by West Country trainer Martin Pipe. suffered a shock defeat at 1-8. The ian Derby, was fourth-lengths second to 8-1 winner Melternison, who made

all the running.

ļ	INDEPE	ND)	ENT
	RACING !	SERV	ICES
	0891	261	+
	LIVE COMMEN	ARIES	RESULTS
	WINCANTON	971	981
1	HUNTINGDON	972	982
	LINGFIELD	973	983
١.	ALL COURSE	S RESUL	TC

<u>0891</u> 261 970

Threats alone are unlikely to improve the attitude of players

THIS IS the time of the year when football managers found it benefit attitude. We are presently hearing Anfield, and then his refusal to take

The old retain-and-transfer and annual contracts enabled managers to employ fear as a factor in motivation because many players lived when the season was over.

It was a rotten system (ruled illegal in 1961), one that the players had every right to challenge with all the media and political support their union could muster.

The pendulum has since swung so far in the direction of even just

riously about alternative employ- signed on Tuesday after a brief en- ble. counter with the club's chairman,

his most difficult players would re- after half-time. with the threat of being dumped spond to decent behaviour and perform for him accordingly.

er brought Little down, it was Stan needs is a kick up the arse." Collymore, whose £7m transfer

cial to suggest that some men in and reading about the Aston Villa up residence on Merseyside sugtheir charge should be thinking se-manager. Brian Little, who re-gested that Little was buying trou-

A few weeks ago Collymore turned out for Villa in the EA Cup Little is not the bullying kind, but at Portsmouth. Said to be feeling it was a big mistake to suppose that unwell, he was substituted shortly

An old pro said in reference to Little's method of dealing with If one player more than any oth- Collymore: "A cuddle? What he

from Liverpool last summer caused resorted to that remedy, but they people to wonder about Little's all worked in a much different Collymore's pathetic grumbling, subtle, cunning and tricky," a Pre-



"Talent is so thin on the ground that good players won't stand for as wily as any football manager Plenty of managers would have you getting into their faces. Now could be. we're stuck with the Bosman thing. If things aren't working out to time. "Today you have to be more their satisfaction, they're off."

played all the angles before they played him keeping his players it of players who replayed him, keeping his players in plenty of money for the living, and main wary of him.

is appropriate to the style he em- you." ployed in management. The gladators are assembled for a pep talk by Livia, the wife of Augustus and

Games, and at this point in the sto-me," I remember him saying.

I don't know how much reading let me down, I'll break this guild, day is that players who have risen lough does but there is a possess

Burnley, Sunderland and Sheffield the same attention as rock stars. Wednesday, never let his players forget who was boss, no matter what their distinction. "If I give them

half-decent players that threats his attempt to put the arm on miership manager said this week. ball management was attributed in firm lecture, she says: "These Ferguson. Taking a leaf from Stein's another story...

part to his understanding that very Games are being degraded by hard book, Ferguson does not perfew players could be relied upon to few players could be relied upon to always put in maximum affect. Us always put in maximum effort. He played all the angles before the

A big problem for managers to-Clough does but there is a passage and I'll send the lot of you to the up to earn prodigious salaries are up to earn prodigious salaries are up to earn prodigious salaries are in Robert Graves's I, Claudius that mines... That's all I've got to say to admiringly interviewed by sycois appropriate to the chile had phants in the employ of television Alan Brown, who managed and popular newspapers, receiving

One of John Gregory's first tasks as the new manager of Aston Villa will be to persuade Steve She spent a great deal on the enough rope, they're sure to hang Staunton and Gareth Southgate Sames and at this point is the second of the same and at the same an that it makes sense to stay put. An-There is something of the great other will be to seek a means of mo-Brian Clough's success in footue for money. At the end of her Celtic manager Jock Stein in Alex tivating Collymore. But that is

The indomitable Stewart remains master of his craft

AS ONE of the few England players without his own newsgives the impression of a nearting is once again proving, something of a false image, and yet it is one that cannot help being recalled again this Friday when Michael Atherton notches his 50th Test as captain.

This is a milestone that, ironically. Stewart himself could well have been celebrating had the England captaincy, following Graham Gooch's resignation four and a half years ago, remained with the yeomanry, instead of falling into Oxbridge

For Stewart, 35 at the end of the tour, such conjecture and speculation are as pointless as patting back a juicy half-volley match in Trinidad, which took and then moaning about the missed opportunity. Even so, as Atherton's long-term opening partner, he is perhaps well placed to have noticed how the half-century, unique to English cricket at least, has been tration point of view, it's as well play."

cally and he handles tough situations much better than he did when he first started. I'd say it's only his handling of individuals, which he does in his own way, which is still a bit unusual. It agrees with some players, but not with others, and it's more a case of them having to get used to him than the other way

But if their viewpoints do not always meet on common ground, Stewart is a loyal admirer, and one of those who phoned Atherton at the 11th hour to try and talk him out of resigning the captaincy - a ploy which eventually succeeded.

"I simply said: if you're quitting because you feel it's affecting your batting, fair enough. But if it was for the wrong reasons, like media pressure. then he should carry on as we prohably had our best chance ever of beating the West Indies. I told him, after all he'd been through, he deserved to be captain of what could be a successful England side."

They have a chance, too, and one that, with the series level at one Test apiece, is so far being

England's senior batsman is not ready paper column, Alec Stewart to relinquish his role at the top of ly man. It is, as his brilliant bat- the order. He talked to Derek Pringle

> Angus Fraser's unstinting efforts of their slow bowlers in the with the ball.

With 259 runs in two Tests and a farce, all on fairly spiteful pitches, Stewart is way ahead of the chasing pack. Mind you, it is not the first time he has done well in the Caribbean and, since the Packer era began in 1977 - a time when the West Indies pace bowling juggernaut had just begun to roll into action - no visiting player has scored more runs.

of the ball, but I'd rate my 83 in the last innings of the second nearly five hours, as one of the best I've ever played. Batting against this lot is always a challenge but in those conditions I had to work much harder, and as I've played."

A hard-working cricketer, he analyses his game closely, usually after consultation with his father, Mickey, who was England coach from 1986-1992. and is a man who knows his son's game blindfold. "With the pitches so far hav-

ing a tendency to keep low as well as move about. I've deliberately stayed leg side of the ball," Stewart said. "Normally I go back and across to off stump, but if you do that and the ball squats, chances are you're going to play across it and be lbw. By staying fractionally out of line, and keeping my pads out at a slightly reduced pace. of the way, I hope to get a bat on it instead.

"Mind you, Dad phoned me two days ago to remind me to go back to my old ways when I get on truer pitches, which with a bit of luck will happen in this Test, which is normally a good

In fact, the pitch at the Bourda ground in Georgetown is fairly bare, and may suit spin. It is a suspicion even entertained by the West Indies selectors, who have picked a specialist wrist spinner, Dinanath Ramnarine - a selection that may sustained by Stewart's bat and persuade England to play both

fourth Test.

As far as England are concerned, the problems over accommodating an extra spinner are well known. In the past, it has mainly been the wicketkeeper who has made way, with Stewart having to soak up the extra responsibility of taking the gloves. But while he is again willing to do whatever is asked of him, England appear to be intent on resolving the dilemma "I'm generally a fluent timer by other means.

"I enjoy keeping and I'll do it if asked. But you also have to ask what is best for the team and I think a major strength of this team is an Atherton/Stewart opening partnership. If I had to keep, I couldn't open as well and I can't see us going that route from a defensive and concen- with three Tests still left to

sharp end of Ambrose and Walsh, he scoffs at the recent notion that they are over the hill. "Whatever happened in Pakistan happened. As far as I'm concerned Amby [Ambrose] has bowled as well as I can remember. OK, the pitches and the large seams on the balls have undoubtedly been a factor, but he just doesn't bowl a bad bail.

> "He makes it look so simple too. He just runs in straight, his arm comes over straight, he follows through straight and the ball goes straight. Which is what Gussie [Fraser] does for us,

> "During the two Tests in Trinidad, the only boundary I can remember scoring off Ambrose was a thick edge to third man. Courtney is similar, though he might give you a few more balls to score off. Against bowlers like that you have to limit your ambition. I'm reading Steve Waugh's diary of their tour here three years ago and he' right when he says you can't look further ahead than the next ball. You simply can't set scoring targets like you might

against other teams." As a touchstone, and simply as a reminder that it can be



Photograph: David Ashdown challenge. I've had to work much harder from a defensive point of view'

Barbados four years ago. around with him.

"I'm a great believer in watching videos of yourself, and it's good to compare how I'm batting now with those knocks then, which I consider

to be two of my best ever." But if Barbados holds special cricketing memories, it is also the place where wives and significant others descend, and Stewart is looking forward to seeing his family, a visit that was hanned last winter in Zimbabwe. "Last winter's decision to ban wives and girlfriends was wrong. As long as they realise that we are working and that they are only here because

we're working, that's fine. I'm

done, he carries a video of his lucky, my wife Lynne knows back-to-back hundreds, made in where she stands when the long as possible. One of the cricket's on. But as long as they are well organised, which they weren't in Cape Town two winters ago, it shouldn't be a problem. After all, as we proved in Zimbabwe, we can lose without them being there as well."

With two young children growing up rapidly, many players find it increasingly difficult to drag themselves away on tour. It is a difficult situation, though one that Stewart - despite the absence of his own father, away touring with England during the 1960s - does not envisage changing just yet.

While the family comes first, it's a career and one that has looked after me well. Providing fitness and form are not greatest influences on my cricket has been Graham Gooch, who had his best years between the age of 34 and 39. As Linford Christie once said: 'Age is just a number.' Well, I'm 35 in April and, as long as I keep enjoying it, I want to keep going."

A meticulous player before batting, he goes through the same habits of preparation; the twirling bat; the little scrape of the crease, as well as the little kick of dust as he wanders to square leg to compose himself. All have helped him add up to the formidable batsman he is to-

When I tell him that Ladbrokes have him to make 450-465 runs in the series, he feigns

mock surprise, saying he'll be happy to settle for that. When I tell him it's a good deal higher than the spread offered on Brian Lara he laughs the laugh of a man at ease with himself. "It just shows you, they know nothing about the game," he

 The West Indian vice-captain. Carl Hooper, has been reported to the West Indies Cricket Board and could face disciplinary action for deciding not to play for Guyana against England last weekend. The West Indies coach. Malcolm Marshall, and the chairman of selectors. Les Hall, had instructed all their Test butsmen to play if possible between the third and fourth Tests, but Hooper ignored their advice.

Bath at loose end after Lyle injury

Rugby Union

By Chris Hewett

GOOD back rows tend to stick together, but Bath's all-international loose trio have taken their inseparability to ludicrous extremes. With Richard Webster and Nathan Thomas, the Welsh flankers, already recovering from surgery on injured knees, the third member of the European champions' imported triumvirate, Dan Lyle, came out in sympathy yesterday by ruling himself out of all rugby for the rest of the season.

The uniquely athletic No 8 from the United States twisted a knee during last weekend's Alfied Dunbar Premiership victory over Wasps and specialists have now diagnosed a rupture of the anterior cruciate ligament. The damage is so extensive that Lyle has been advised to catch the first flight back across the Atlantic and rest up for a minimum of three months.

Given that Webster is still convalescing after keyhole surgery and Thomas has only just had the plaster removed following his own knee operation, Lyle's seasonal demise leaves the selectors in serious difficulties. They must now be wishing they had kept Steve Ojomoh, who played for England in all three back-row positions, at the Rec instead of letting him slip away to

i forced b

新年等

Gloucester before Christmas. Bath, who still consider themselves realistic contenders for the Premiership title, can call on the experience of Eric Peters. the former Scotland No 8, to help them out of their current hole. They are chronically short of flankers, however. Russell Earnshaw will fill one berth against Harlequins this weekend with either Benoit Durand, a rookie signing from France, or Richard Bryan, a local product from Colston's School, playing the blind-side role

Neath, meanwhile, are having all manner of fun with one of their own loose forwards, the Fiiian international Tomasi Tamanivula. A 31-year-old No 8. Tamanivula is claiming unfair dismissal against the Welsh premiership side and has taken them to an industrial tribunal in

Cardiff Signed by Neath on a twoyear contract last July, Tamanivula was labelled surplus to requirements after only two months. The player is challenging Neath's claim that an eightweek trial period was built into the deal. The hearing continues,

SNOW REPORTS

from 200+ resorts in Europe and

Voice reports 0891 333 110 + code Fax reports 0897 500 086 + code

For a full list of all ski codes by voice or fax dial 0990 100 843

Ski Snapshot

At a glance to snow conditions at over 200 resorts world-wide 0897 500 601

in association with N EWSTEL

Resert Comment ANDORRA	Area. open	(ast store	Lwr cm	Upp um	Farecast
ArraisFresh stow conditions AUSTRIA	100%	232	90	130	Part cloudy
SI AntonFresh dry snow at albitude BULGARIA	100%	22.2	30	200	Surry spells
BorovetsStaing only on upper stopes CANADA	50%	5.2	Q-20	50	ښ دن
Whater Sroomed and packed snow FRANCE	100%	23.2	130	255	Part douby
CourtheydFresh 9104 at all levels	00%	23.2	40	160	Brytstold
Stude D'OutsGeneral now dosed	100%	73.2	40	(10)	9rgtc
Gold	80%	164	60	€0	Part Gowth
Serra NesadaSpringlike snow conditions	95%	82	30	190	Cerison.
Verteer Mont Fort area best UNITED STATES	45%	23 2		1507	فتطنحة
nowbird fresh powder snow		242 2007ts 8	•		Ski Hotline

Ballesteros takes back seat

Golf

Andy Farrell reports from Dubas

THESE days Seve Ballesteros's seasonal debuts are low-key affairs. No place for him in the Dubai Classic's pre-tournament junket, while it is Greg Norman and Colin Montgomerie who have been given the plum assignments of designing the two courses at the new £160m Emi-

rates Hills complex nearby. It will not be Ballesteros's problem how to create an elevation worthy of the name hill out of the flat desert, and nor is the Spaniard that bothered. Take the loss of his club contract. "It gives me more freedom.

more spare time." he said. Ballesteros also has a new caddie, is scarching for a new manager but has not employed trapped into saying anything. "It a new coach - instructor Den-

nis Sheehy is just a good friend know very well what to do. I helping out. The victorious Ryder Cup captain has just one aim for the season, staying on the fairway, both on and off the my goal for 1998. Great, what-

Last season the 40-year-old was never far from trouble, either while playing the game he finished 136th in Europe or in his other duties. "I knew the captaincy was going to be difficult, but it was worth it." Ballesteros said. "I didn't regret being captain. It was a great honour and a great thing to happen to me because it was in

Spain and we won." For those expecting a "but", it duly came. "I don't think I will ever be captain again. The more I think about it, the less possibilities I give myself."

And as for his successor. Ballesteros was not going to be is up to the committee and they there. Never forget that."

have to be very polite this year. I promise you I will not be in the middle of any trouble. That is ever they decide is fantastic."

In order to look on the bright side of life, Ballesteros, who underwent a minor eye operation last month, is having to dig deep, as when his suitcase was broken into en route from Spain. They took 12 shirts, five trousers and six sets of underwear, but they left me some things so they must be a good person, no?

"I'm sure he is happy now wherever he is, and it is always nice to make people happy, I have always tried to look on the positive side. I have always been positive and a winner. I'm not a loser. There are winning people and losing people, I'm on the winning side and I'll always be

Warrington signings to miss cup showdown with Saints

Rugby League

By Dave Hadfield

WARRINGTON will be without two of their new signings for their Silk Cut Challenge Cup tie at St Helens on Sunday.

Adam Fogerty misses the chance to play against his former club after breaking down again in training with a thigh injury, while the ex-Oldham centre, Vince Fawcett, has been ill all week and also misses the

match. Castleford are hoping for their first five-figure crowd since the visit of the Australians in 1994 for the tie against the Bradford Bulls the previous day. The club have already sold more than 7,000 tickets and Wheldon Road's capacity of 11,750 could be tested.

Stuart Raper, the Cas coach, is confident that both Danny Orr and Barrie-Jon Mather, injured in the victory at Leeds in the previous round, will be fit to play.

Wigan are paying their opponents, Dewsbury, the compliment of fielding the strongest available line-up on Sunday. With the scrum-half Tony Smith back after injury, the Warriors have nine internationals in their starting line-up.

He replaces Craig Murdock in the only change from the side which demolished Keighley in the last round.

The Australian forward Tony Mestrov, who missed the Keighley game with a dislocated finger, is on the substitutes' bench Two other internationals -Denis Betts and Nigel Wright are still recovering from injury.

, y = t- tourk British

.

100

٠. ._. ٠

. . . - -

•

. . . .:

. . . .

..

Richardson savours a rare high

By John Roberts

ANDREW RICHARDSON, 1inister Rosset, the Swiss 1992 Olympic champion, yesterday, which is not a tall story even though both ittacks players stand 6ft 7in. The pity of it was that Rosset retired, EU plan complaining of a viral infection, when trailing, 6-3, 2-1. It is often said that you can on BSE only beat the player in front of

the British No 3, defeated Marc talked through and the motivat-

vancing to the second round of "He's very important to my

"In Melbourne and Split I just

bledon last summer. Rosset, final of the European Commupoints to secure the opening set after Rosset had double-faulted to lose his serve for 3-5. Af-

ter being broken in the third game of the second set, the Swiss informed the umpire that It was Richardson's sixth win on the ATP Tour. A close friend and contemporary of Tim Henman, his progress has been pedestrian by comparison, his world ranking rising from No 462 in 1995 to No 326 in 1996 and No 143 at the end of last year. in practice. I have got the op-

You may have heard that the ATP Tour intends to experi- straight after Split."

Sailing

Stuart Alexander

reports from São Sebastião

THE stately minuet that has be-

come the closing stages of the

fifth leg of the Whitbread Race

for all but the winner, Paul Cayard's EF Education, is likely

to finish tonight for the pair dis-

For Lawrie Smith's Silk Cut.

at least, it is all over. After los-

ing their mast to weeks ago they

have limped along, and they of-

ficially retired from the leg yes-

terday. But the women of EF

Education are fitting their new

in the Beagle Channel at the

southern tip of South America.

Roy Heiner's Brunel Suner-

gy, the only one of the nine yachts

mast at Ushuaia in Argentina,

and will complete the leg.

puting second and third.

he would have to default.

No 1, world No 5 and a fellow

today. Richardson lost to Rused-

ski in the third round at Wim-

nity Championship.

ment with coaches on the court, à la Davis Cup ties, but there is no suggestion that the gurus are going to be allowed to play the shots. When the game plan is ing done, the players, as always, will be the ones with the rackets doing the business, or not.

Henman is alert to the situation, which is why he was keen to put the role of his coach, David Felgate, in perspective after ending a run of five consecutive defeats with a rousing you. And if the player in front 6-7. 7-6, 7-5 victory against of you walks off the court? Richard Krajicek, the 1996 Tough. That summarises Wimbledon champion, in the Richardson's attitude after adfirst round on Tuesday night.

the Guardian Direct Cup in Batlearning process," Henman said. tersea Park. "I think profes-"but last night was not all to do sional tennis is all about taking with him, just as when I've been your opportunities," he said. losing it was not all to do with Today Rosset obviously wasn't him. That's why I think some of 100 per cent, but I was very the criticism has been totally out pleased with the way I played." of order. It was me who had to The 23-year-old wild card win the match last night, and it from Peterborough's main conwas me who was playing like an cern was whether he would be idiot in previous weeks. facing Greg Rusedski, the British

wasn't going for my serve, and I left-hander, or Germany's Man:was struggling. If I'd lost last Kevin Goellner in his next match night, what could I have said.? It just shows what it can turn on.

"The crowd last night helped me in a similar way as they did ranked No 28, arrived here af- at Wimbledon. I was pretty ter losing to Rusedski in Sunday's tired at the end, and it definitely put pressure on Richard when the crowd sensed I had an op-Richardson needed five set portunity. I felt a bit bad for Richard. He's a very good guy, and the two matches I've played him in were real heartbreakers."

Henman's opponent tonight is Rainer Schuttler, a German qualifier ranked No 118 in the world, who embarrassed the Briton in Split. "I knew I had hottomed out after Split," Henman said. "I improved against [Boris] Becker [in Dubai], and I improved against [Magnus] Norman [in Antwerp], and I knew I was hitting the ball well portunity to put the record



Goran Ivanisevic plays a forehand drop volley during his surprise 6-2, 6-4 second-round defeat to Wayne Ferreira in Battersea yesterday

Photograph: Allsport

Uefa drops Chelsea referee Gritt is sacked by Brighton

By Andrew Martin

UEFA, European football's Silk Cut forced to retire governing body, yesterday took the extraordinary step of not designed by Bruce Farr, conrelieving the Swedish referee, tinues to hold off Dee Smith's Leif Sundell, together with two assistant referees, from their Chessie Racing by just over 10 duties at Chelsea's European miles. It is a precarious lead, but the Judel and Vrolijk design Cup-Winners' Cup quarterfinal at Real Betis next week. has kept this up for four days.

It is supplies of food and fuel Spanish league game between that are running out on some of Real Betis and Españyol, the other boats, including Gunnar Krantz's Swedish Match, prompting a Uefa investigation. Although it found that the which continues to lead the trio had not gone to the match chasing group. Tracy Edwards and the allas guests of the Seville club, Ucfa has decided to replace the

woman crew of the 92ft catamaran Royal and Sun Alliance are progressing well as they try to set a new non-stop around the world record. They have covered 7.041 miles in the first 22 days for an average of 13.3 knots.

WHITEREAD ROUND THE WORLD Fifth log (Auckland to Silo Sabastilia, Britzil): 1 EF Lan-guage (Swel 23 days the sinin 23ec; 2 Brunel Sunengy (Neth) 2363 miles to finish; 3 Chassis Pacing (US) 2931: 4 Swedich Match (Swe) 3914; 6 Mest Cup (Moreaco) 407. 6 Teshbe (US) 482; 7 Innovation (Neerlee (Nor) 545; 8 Silo Car (GB) 12394; S. EF Education (Swe) 21901.

However, Williams added: "I can understand why Uefa have changed [the officials] because if they hadn't and there had been a controversial decision, then questions would have been asked. Our managing director,

to make a comment about the matter and they are obviously Sundell attended Sunday's very careful about these things." The England defender Tony Adams has insisted that he is committed to staying with Arsenal. The 31-year-old has been linked with a move from Highbury, with Rangers reported to be interested.

match officials for the game, on Thursday 5 March. The match will now be refereed by Atanas Ouzounov, of Bulgaria. The Chelsea assistant manager, Gwyn Williams, welcomed the ruling as a "sensible decision". He said Sundell had been the match official in one

of the club's previous European

games and had found him to be

term commitment to Arsenal and I will be happy to stay with the club." Adams' England team-mate. the Tottenham Hotspur striker Les Ferdinand, has been

Colin Hutchinson, asked Uefa ciation for his sharp criticism of the referee Gerald Ashby following Spurs' FA Cup defeat at Barnsley. Ferdinand described "disgraceful", adding that he would expect better from a parks' referee. Adams has 18 months of his

Ferdinand and his clubdismissal of the midfielder Steve Clemence for diving in the fourth-round replay at Oakcontract to run and while he well. The striker was yesterday charged by Lancaster Gate with using insulting language and has been given 14 days to respond.

charged by the Football Asso-

Luton's chief coach, Trevor Peake, is leaving the Second Division club to join the backshould I want to? My children room staff at his former club, are in London and they are very Coventry.

an entirely competent official. important to me. I've got a long- BRIGHTON and Hove Albion best interests of the club, both in breach of the undertaking he

yesterday dismissed their man-short-term and long-term, to ager, Steve Gritt, after winning make a change now." just four matches in the Third Division this season.

Albion's chairman, Dick Knight, was due to hold talks last night with a possible replacement. Gritt, who took over at Brighton in December 1996, guided the Sussex club to a dramatic escape from relegathe official's performance as tion last season. They are currently second from bottom in the Nationwide League, with only Doncaster beneath them.

Knight, who took control of mates were incensed by Ashby's the club after a protracted takeover battle last year, said: "No one who cares about the Albion will forget Steve's tremendous contribution to our survival last season. This season, given our difficult circumstances, feasibly we were only seeking to preserve our League status by a safe margin, but to date that comfort zone has eluded us.

"The board has shown pa-

The career of the West Bromwich Albion defender Shane Nicholson is in doubt after he refused to take a training-ground drugs test.

Nicholson, 27, first fell foul of the Football Association's drug test unit in October when a training-ground sample revealed traces of amphetamine. He was charged with miscon-November, his defence was that on a night out his drink fiad been spiked.

That was accepted, although Nicholson was warned about his would have to submit to target testing during future months. Nicholson has already pro-

vided one sample for the FA's drug unit, but when the unit ing ground on Monday Nicholtience but feel that it is in the son refused to supply a sample, Shrews youngster.

had given at the disciplinary hearing three months ago.

The civil action by the Bradford City striker Gordon Watson against Kevin Gray, of Huddersfield Town, will take place on 19 October. The trial. expected to last 10 days, is likely to be heard in Leeds or Sheffield.

Watson has not played since his leg was broken in two places after a tackle by Gray in the duct but, when he went before fourth minute of a First Division an FA disciplinary hearing in match at Valley Parade on 1 February last year.

Manchester City are trying to sign the former Hartlepool and Motherwell left-back Rob McKinnon from the Dutch future conduct and told he club, Twente Enschede. He is also wanted by Hearts.

The Football Association has dropped a poaching charge against Wolverhampton Wanders after Shrewshury Town turned up at the Baggies' train- withdrew a complaint about an illegal approach to a former

Sporting Digest

Athletics

Activetics

IAAF GRAND PRIX II MEETING (Melbourne): MEN: 100m: 1 M Green (US) 1008seg; MEN: 100m: 1 M Green (US) 1008seg; 2 J Drummond (US) 103; 3 D Baley (Carl) 1036: 800m: 1 S Farrel (UZ) 1:4552; 2 B Harrigar (Aus) 1:457; 3 P Notrul (Karl) 1:4552; 2 B Harrigar (Aus) 1:457; 3 P Notrul (Karl) 1:4582; 1 Tim hurdles: 1 A Johnson (US) 1:458; 2 P Horre (US) 1:359; 3 K Ventor (Nas) 4:86; 400m hurdles: 1 B Brorson (US) 4:86; 400m hurdles: 1 B Brorson (US) 4:80; 420; Long jump: 1 J Taurima (Aus) 8:03m; 2 P Burge (Aus) 7:96; 3 R Robinson (Aus) 4:20; Long jump: 1 J Taurima (Aus) 8:03m; 2 P Burge (Aus) 7:96; 3 N Adamou (Adg) 7:83.

WOMEN: 100m: 1 M Jones (US) 1:01; 2 M Gainsford-Taylor (Aus) 1:38; 3 N Peris-Kneebone (Aus) 1:68; 6:00m: 1 R Jacobs (US) 2:03:5; 1 C Kneebone (Aus) 1:68; 2:00m: 1 S Couling (M) 1:503:29; 2 S Barry (NZ) 1:54:237; 3 A Cross (Aus) 5:4:295; 400m hurdles: 1 S Price (Aus) 5:8:75; 2 S Brito (Aus) 5:8:32; 3 E Coordy (Aus) 5:9:47. Olecus: 1 B Faturniar (AU) 6:422m; 2 L M Vezniari (Aus) 6:228; 3 S Servers (Ger) 5:5:77. Pole vesut: 1 E George (Aus) 440m; 2 T Grigorieva (Rus) 4:27; 3 H Dazy (Aus) 4:05.

Basketbali '

NBA: Washington 124 Houston 112; New Jersey 110 Vencouver 101; Golden State 87 New York 82; Mismi 104 Utah 102; LA Lakers 98 Miswarkee 81; Sen Antonio 105 Mirmesota 99; Philadelphia 85 Phoenix 84.

Cricket

Cricket
Rajesh Chauhan, the off-break bowler
whose action came under scrutny by
the international Cricket Council in December, was among four spinners
picked by india yesterday in a 14-nansquad for the first Test against Austratia next month, India, unbeaten in
a home senies since 1987, have once
again banked on their traditional
strength in spin bowling for the first of
three Tests starting in Madras on 6
March. The log-spinner Anil Kumble,
the all-rounder Hristiliessh Karitiker and
the left-armer Venketapathy Raju, recalled after the England tour in 1996,
are the other stow bowlers in the
squad.

SQUAD (First Test v Australia, Machan, 6-10 March): M Azharuddin (capit, N S Sichu, N R Mongia (wicketteper), R S Drawld, S R Tenchier, S C Ganguly, H H Kantiler, V V S Leoman, A Kurnbla, R K Chauban, Verskanapathy, Ralu, J Srmath, Harvinder Singh, D Mohamy.

TOUR MATCH (Bombsy; second day of

Cycling Cycling
TOUR DE LANGKAWI (Melaysia) Eighth stage (128km): 1 D Piert (ii) 2hr 55min 95ser; 2 S Fortner (US) 2:5620; 3 M Wison (Aus) same time; 4 E Gragus (Pro) 2:560; 5 P Zuccori (Swit); 8 D Nautello (ii); 7 M Musa (Malay); 8 G Glomeer (Pro) all st; 9 J Landry (Can) 2:5612; 10 F Rodriguez (US) 2:5645. Overall: 1 A Taff (ii); 2 F Rodriguez (US); 2:5645. Overall: 1 A Taff (ii); 2 F Rodriguez (US); 3 N Avestson (Dise); 4 S Guidback (Den); 5 G Missagia (p); 6 N Whate (SA); 7 P Wadeddi (Pol); 8 A Mizurov (Kazaik); 9 R Gaggadi (ii); 10 S Pstersen (Den).

Football Spanish police are Investigating Gi-arpsolo Pozzi, the managing director of the Italian Serie A Club Udinese, over

liegations of insud. The Derby County striker Deon Bur-The Derby Courny smiler Leon but-ton has been whed Jamaica's sports personality of the year after helping his country qualify for the World Cup finals. The Reading-born Burton, 21, took the award ahead of the cricketer Courtney Walsh after scoring crucial goals in Jamaica's qualifying match-es against America and Costa Rica. goals in variances ductiving in care against America and Costa Rica. Benedict McCarthy scored twice yesterday to earn the defending champions, South Africa, a place in the final of the African Nations' Cup. McCarthy scored in the 50th minute and the 22nd minute of extra time against the Democratic Pepublic of Congo to give his side a 2-1 win in the semi-final in Ouagadougou, Burldne Faso, to become the tournaments top scorer with seven goals, South Africa, the last World Cup qualifiers still in the competition, had to come from behind after a substitute, Keve Bembuana, had put the Democratic Republic of Congo ahead in the 48th minute. ET UTE 4001 HEREITE. LOAN TRANSFER: Martin Aldridge (for-werd) Orderd Utd to Southend.

Pools dividends LTTLEWOODS Trobbs chance: 23pts 22:10430; 22 2:16900; 21 2:500; 20 2:375. Half-time results: 23.55 (16pts men) Four draws: 27.725. Nine homes: 27.40. Five aways (paid on four): 2:6480. nce: 24pts 13895395:

23 £243.17; 22 £19.70; 21 £190. Four awaye: £524.60. Eight homes: £400. Four draws: 252-55. Bight homes: C400. Four directs: S240. Bight homes: C400. Four directs: S240. All draws troble chance from all 14 draws: 24pts 558.55; 23 C230. Felf Five: S5625. Lucky numbers: 20, 15, 4, 32, 12, 37. BRITTENS Troble chance (3 dividenda): 23pts £1458.00; 22 £585; 21 £140. Four draws: £1730. Five aways (paid on four): S33.50. Eight homes: £1730.

Swimming

Yesterday

Fine, the World governing body, is to Fina, the World governing body, is to hold a special congress next month to strengthen its anti-doping rules. It will follow on from Finals task-force meeting in Switzerland on 5 and 6 March and will toughen drug comtrol measures. China, who are hosting a leg of the Fina World Cup swimming competition in Peking this week, have been the target of drugs allegations in recent weeks. Four Chinese swimmers were found to have taken the

Football results

RESCEPULAY
AFRICAN NATIONS' CUP Semi-final (Ousgadougou, Burkina Faso): Democratic
Republic of Congo 1 (Bembuane 48) South
Africa 2 (McCarthy 80, 112) (after extre time).
INTERNATIONAL FRIENDLY (fel Auth): Israel 2 (Islassificov 28, Harazz 83) Potand 0.
BASS IRISH CUP Stath-round replay: Ards
1 Arment City 3.

1 Armsgh City 3.
AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION First
Division: Tottenham 0 West Ham 0; Wim-bledon 0 bawich 1.

Tuesday's late results

Tuesday's late results

NATIONWIDE FOOTBALL LEAGUE First
Division: Bradford City 2 Port Vale 1; Hundersteid fown 2 sunderland 3; baviet Town
5 Oxford Utd 2; Reporing 3 Manchester City
0; Stockport County 2 Norwich City 2; Thanmere Rovers 0 Northgham Forest 0; West
Bromwich Alboho 0 Portsmouth 3. Second
Division: Bristol Rovers 3 Wycombe Wanderers 1; Burnley 1 Wrezham 2; Cresterfeld
2 Oxform Arthetic 1; Fisham 0 Bommernouth
1; Gillingnern 1 Northampton Town 0; Grimsby Town 1 Biackpood 0; Lucin Town 1 Wigen
Althetic 1; Presson North End 0 Carlisse Dirt
3; Southend Urd 3 Phyrocuth Argyle 0; Walself 0 Brantford 0; York City 0 Bristol City 1
Third Division: Cardiff City 2 Potherham Utd
2; Chester City 1 Torquay Utd 3; Doncaster Rovers 0 Derlington 2; Exeter City 2

illecal ciuretic Triamterene - which inegal duretic Inamterene – which medical experts say is a masking agent for anabolic steroid use – in the World Championships in Perth in Jan-uary. The failed tests followed the dis-qualification of the breaststroke swimmer Yuan Yuan after customs of-ficials found 13 vials of human growth hormone in her best at Swiney air. hormone in her begs at Sydney air-

may seek to renegotiate, both

Adams and the Arsenal man-

ager. Arsène Wenger, say he is

said Adams, who has been at

Arsenal all his career. "Why

"I'm not about to uproot,"

staying with the Gunners.

port.
WORLD CUP (Peking) Finals: MEN: 50m breaststroke: 1 Zeng (Diang (Ch) 2786; 2 Zhu Yi (Ch) 2787; 3 & Chengchi (Ch) 2286; 2 Zhu Yi (Ch) 2787; 3 & Chengchi (Ch) 2367. 2 Zheng (Dang (Ch) 3422; 2 O Stamfey (Lin) 3444, 100m freestyle: 1 A Popor (Flus) 4899; 2 R Upton (Jus) 4973; 3 L Vismen; (I0 4865, 100m breaststroke: 1 K Tomislav (Croe) 5426; 2 Hugh 5463; 3 R Romeno (B) 5497. 200m breaststroke: 1 A Korneyev (Rus) 2:00m breaststroke: 1 A Korneyev (Rus) 2:1108. 200m breaststroke: 1 A Korneyev (Rus) 2:1108. 200m breaststroke: 1 A Korneyev (Rus) 1:15889; 2 Han Kyu-chul (5 Kor) 1:5879; 3 K Williams (Aus) 1:5888. 400m freestyle:

Bitgitton & Hove Albion 1; Hull City D Ber-net 2; Leyton Orient 2 Herrieppool Utd 1; Lin-coln City 1 Sounhorpe Utd 1; Marsslad Town 1 Macclesfield Town 0; Notic County 2 Sweneas City 1; Peterborough Utd 0 Scar-borough 0; Rochdels 2 Cambridge Utd 0; Shrewsbury Town 0 Colchester Utd 2. BELL'S SCOTTISH LEAGUE Premier Di-vision: Dundee Utd 1 Hibernian 1; Ki-marnock 1 Rangers 1 Second Division: Queen of the South 0 Cydebank 0. Third Division: Albos 2 Cowderbestin 0.

toris 1.
FA UMBRO TROPHY Third-round re-plays: Gloucasier City 1 Stevenage Borough 2; Borehern Wood 7 Stough Town 2 (effer softs time).

2: Boreham Wood ? Slough town 2: persent time).

RYMAN LEAGUE Premier Division: Cardestrion Athletic 0 St Albans City 2; Gravesand & Northletet 3 Bashqustoke flown 0. First Division: Whyteleafs 1 Billericay 3. Second Division: Whyteleafs 1 Billericay 3. Second Division: Brahmes 3 Bedford Town 0; Rooting & Mitcham 0 Carney Island 1; Witham 3 Wealdstone 4. Third Division: Camberley 2 Kingsbury 1; Epsom & Ewel 0 Corinthan Casues 1; Ford Uld 5 Lewes 0; Southell 2 Cepton 1. Guardien Insurance Cup fourth-round replay: Sutton Uld 5

UNIBOND LEAGUE CUP Fourth-round re-pley: Altrinchem 2 Boston Utd 1 President's

1 J Hoffmann (Ger) 2:4499; 2 Deng Olng-song (Ch) 3:50:24; 3 Weng Wei (Ch) 3:5488. 100m individual medley: 1 C Keler (Ger) 55:49; 2 Huggl 5673; 3 Ne Xuleng (Ch) 5677; 400m individual medley: 1 Xe Xuleng (Ch) 4:1421; 2 C Keller (Ger) 4:1932; 3 D Witt (GB) 4:20:5.

4:20:5.
WOMEN: 50m backstroke: 1 S Vöser (Ger) 4:20:5.
WOMEN: 50m backstroke: 1 S Vöser (Ger) 28:54; 2 Lu Donghua (Ch) 28:53; 3 Chen Yan A (Ch) 29:38. 50m freestyle: 1 Völes: 25:59; 2 Chan Na (Ch) 25:35; 3 Nisn Yun (Ch) 28:03. 100m briesstsindes: 1 S Bondarento (Utr) 1:07:90; 2 Han Xue (Ch) 1:08:62; 3 S Gerasch (Ger) 1:08:88. 100m bufferfly: 1 Hu Ning (Ch) 1:00:54; 2 Chen Yan B (Ch) 1:00:71; 3 K Jaise (Ger) 1:00:72. 200m backstroke: 1 Chen Yan A (Ch) 2:10:80; 2 R Natamura (Japan) 2:10:91; 3 L Porchianeto (t) 2:10:54. 200m freestyle: 1 J Greville (Aus) 1:59:70; 2 N Jurid (Japan) 2:00:91; 3 L Porchianeto (t) 2:10:50; 2 N Jurid (Japan) 2:00:91; 3 L Porchianeto (t) 2:10:50; 2 N Jurid (Japan) 2:00:91; 3 L Porchianeto (t) 2:10:91; 3 L Porchianeto (t) 2:10:91; 3 L Porchianeto (t) 2:10:91; 3 V Jurid (Japan) 2:10:93; 3 Viang Derma (Ch) 2:10:80; 3 Viang Derma (Ch) 2:1

Second-round replay: Leigh RM 0 Guise-ley 3.
DR MARTENS LEAGUE Premier Division:

Merthyr Tydfii 2 Burton Albion 1 Middland Division: Hinckley Utd 2 VS Rugby 1 Leegus Cup semi-final first leg: Bashley 0 Margate 3.

O Margare 3.

ARNOTT INSURANCE NORTHERN LEAGUE CUP Third round: Astington 1 Pruchoe won 5-4 on penaltical; Durston FB 2 Consett 0; Eastington 3 Billingham Town 2; South Shields 1 Blingham Synthonia 0.

JEWSON EASTERN LEAGUE Premier Division: Great Yarmouth 0 Witchiam 0; Sudbury Town 0 Februaries 3. League Cup semi-finists; Diss 0 Woodbridge 2; Warboys 4 Histon 2 (ast).

UNLIET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE First Division: Burgess HE 2 Shoreham 0; Wick 1 Littlehampton 3.

WINSTOWN EAD KENT I EAGUE First Division: Burgess HE 2 Shoreham 0; Wick 1 Littlehampton 3.

WINSTONLEAD KENT LEAGUE First DI-

vision: Deal 1 Themesmeed 1; Faversham 0 Lordswood 0; Ramsgate 1 VCD Athlotic 1; Whitstable 3 Stade Green 1, Postponed; Tunbridge Wells v Chathern.

Turbridge Welse v Chattern.

SCREWFIX DIRECT LEAGUE Premier Division: Mangotsfield 3 Bridgwater 3. Postponed: Caine v Tauriton.

NORTHERN COUNTIES: EAST LEAGUE Premier Division: Thackey 2 Arnold 1. League Cup tourin round: Armithorpe 1 Casett Abion 2; Hudrall 4 Hall Road Rangers

Table tennis

EUROPEAN WOMEN'S LEAGUE (Whit-church) Premier Division: England 1 Sweden 4 (Eng names first): Singles: Lomas to C Jonsson 13-21 21-12 21-12; N Deaton lost to M Svensson 11-21 11-21; A Hot kost to A Svensson 17-21 7-21, Dou-bles: Lomas and Holl lost M and A Svens-son 15-21 21-16 18-21; Lomas lost to M Svensson 18-21 12-21.

Svensson 18-21 12-21.

QATAR OPEN (Doha) Selected: Men's singles, first round: H Shibustari (Japen) bt T Young (Eng) 21-12 21-14 21-16; E Critchstrine (Bela) bt M Syed (Eng) 21-11 16-21 9-21 21-62-1-18 Men's doubles, qualitying group: A Eden (Eng) and V Flores (Flom) bt S Sidersid (Pol) and K Manch (Pol) 21-14 14-21 22-20. First round: Eden and Flores bt J M Seive (Bel) and Z Primorac (Chos) 77-21 21-02-1-13. Second round: K Linghui and L Gostlang (Ch) bt Eden and Flores 21-12 21-17.

0; North Ferrity 1 Gerforth 0; Curzon Astr-ton 3 Brodsworth 4, JEWSON WESSEX LEAGUE: Lymington 2 Cowes Sports 0.

UHLSPORT UNITED COUNTIES LEAGUE Premier Division: Long Buckby 3 Desbor-ough 3; S&L Corby 0 Ford Sports 5; Stot-fold 0 Cogenhoe 0.

INTERLINK EXPRESS MIDLAND AL-LIANCE: Rushall Olympic 1 Rocester Q LEAGUE OF WALES Glibert Cup semi-fi-nal second leg: Barry 5 Cwmbran 0 (agg: 4.1)

9-1).

BASS BISSH CLIP Shith-round replay: Balyclare Comrades 0 Glenavon 4.

IRISH LEAGUE COCA-COLA FLOODLIT
CLIP Custra-finet: Desilery 2 Linfeld 2 (and).

MARP LAGER NATIONAL LEAGUE OF
IRELAND CLIP Final accound leg: Shelbourse 0 Sigo Rovers 0 (agg: 0-1).

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION First
Division: Whitford 0 Crystal Palace 1 (at
Nothwood).

Northwood).
THE TIMES FA YOUTH CUP Fifth round:

Arsensi O Leeds Utd 1.

INTERNATIONAL FRIENDLIES (Buenos Aires): Argentina 3 (Creano pen 45, 86, 89)

"Agostevia 1 (Drobright 78); (Billemi): Natherlands 3 (Kluvert 17, 18, Jonk 20) Mesoco 2

(Palenca 65, Aspe pen 75).

PORTUGUESE CUP Semi-finale: Porto 3 União Leiria 2 (sed): Braga 2 Bentica 1,

GUARDIAN DIRECT CUP (Battersee Park, London) Singles, first round: T Henman bt R Krajicek (Neth) 6-7 7-6 7-5; A Richardson (GB) bt M Rosset (Swit) 6-3 2-1 ret. Second round: J Stementrik (Neth) bt B Ullivach (CZ Rep) 6-3 6-4; Y Katel-nikov (Rus) bt D Vacek (CZ Rep) 6-3 6-4; Y Katel-nikov (Rus) bt D Vacek (CZ Rep) 6-3 6-4; Y Katel-nikov (Rus) bt D Vacek (CZ Rep) 6-3 6-4; W Ferreira (SA) bt G Nanisewic (Croa) 6-26-4. Doubles, first round: D Adem (SA) and 1. Pimek (Bel) bt M Barnard and B Talbot (SA) 6-1 6-4; P Gastraith (US) and B Stevan (NZ) bt T Carbonell and F Roig (Sp) 6-1 7-6. ADVANTA CHAMPIONSHIPS (Philadel-

AUVANIA CHAMIPIONSHIPS (Philladel-phile) Singles, first round: P Sempres (US) bt X Maisse (Bel) 4-8 6-3 7-5; T Enqvist (Swe) bt E Alverez (Sp) 6-4 6-3, T Heas (Ger) bt V Species (US) 6-3 6-2; S Schallen (Neth) bt J Sabenstein (US) 6-3 4-6 7-6; P Hearthuis (Neth) bt J Sanchez (Sp) 6-3 6-4; R Reneberg (US) bt J Burillo (Sp) 6-36-1; M Craca (Ger) bt N Lapentil (Ec) 6-4 6-4

TODAY'S NUMBER

100,000

The number of Teesside cable television subscribers who can tune in to the new hour-long, twice-weekly programme, Boro TV. Though first-team action is not featured, there will be footage from reserve and youth games, while in the "Bernie's About" slot, the former striker, Bernie Slaven, will interview past and present players.

The Williams sisters are through to the second round of the IGA Tennis Classic in Oklahoma City after straight-set victories. Verus Williams, the third seed, recorded it aces in beating Nana Myagi of Japan, 6-3, 6-2, while the fifth-seeded Serena Williams, 16, had an even easier time with a 44-minute 6-1, 6-2 victory over her fellow-American Katrina Adams.

6-2 victory over her fellow-American Katrina Adams.
Katrina Katrina Katrina Katrina Katrina
Katrina Katrina Katrina Katrina Katrina
Katrina Katrina Katrina Katrina
Katrina Katrina Katrina Katrina
Katrina Katrina Katrina
Katrina Katrina Katrina
Katrina Katrina Katrina
Katrina Katrina Katrina
Katrina Katrina
Katrina Katrina
Katrina Katrina
Katrina Katrina
Katrina Katrina
Katrina Katrina
Katrina Katrina
Katrina Katrina
Katrina Katrina
Katrina Katrina
Katrina Katrina
Katrina Katrina
Katrina Katrina
Katrina
Katrina Katrina
Katrina
Katrina
Katrina
Katrina
Katrina
Katrina
Katrina
Katrina
Katrina
Katrina
Katrina
Katrina
Katrina
Katrina
Katrina
Katrina
Katrina
Katrina
Katrina
Katrina
Katrina
Katrina
Katrina
Katrina
Katrina
Katrina
Katrina
Katrina
Katrina
Katrina
Katrina
Katrina
Katrina
Katrina
Katrina
Katrina
Katrina
Katrina
Katrina
Katrina
Katrina
Katrina
Katrina
Katrina
Katrina
Katrina
Katrina
Katrina
Katrina
Katrina
Katrina
Katrina
Katrina
Katrina
Katrina
Katrina
Katrina
Katrina
Katrina
Katrina
Katrina
Katrina
Katrina
Katrina
Katrina
Katrina
Katrina
Katrina
Katrina
Katrina
Katrina
Katrina
Katrina
Katrina
Katrina
Katrina
Katrina
Katrina
Katrina
Katrina
Katrina
Katrina
Katrina
Katrina
Katrina
Katrina
Katrina
Katrina
Katrina
Katrina
Katrina
Katrina
Katrina
Katrina
Katrina
Katrina
Katrina
Katrina
Katrina
Katrina
Katrina
Katrina
Katrina
Katrina
Katrina
Katrina
Katrina
Katrina
Katrina
Katrina
Katrina
Katrina
Katrina
Katrina
Katrina
Katrina
Katrina
Katrina
Katrina
Katrina
Katrina
Katrina
Katrina
Katrina
Katrina
Katrina
Katrina
Katrina
Katrina
Katrina
Katrina
Katrina
Katrina
Katrina
Katrina
Katrina
Katrina
Katrina
Katrina
Katrina
Katrina
Katrina
Katrina
Katrina
Katrina
Katrina
Katrina
Katrina
Katrina
Katrina
Katrina
Katrina
Katrina
Katrina
Katrina
Katrina WTA TOUR (Linz, Aut) Singles, second round: N Tauzist (Fr) bt A Fusei (Fr) 4-6 6-2

6-2. LTA WOMEN'S TOURNAMENT (Bushey) LTA WOMEN'S TOURNAMENT (Pug) bt H Rosen (Isr) 7-6 7-5; M Schnitzer (Ger) bt E Curuchet (Fr) 6-3 6-5; L Latimer (GB) bt L Woodpoffs (GB) 5-3 7-6; A Ortuno (Sp) bt P Wartush (Aut) 7-6 6-2; R Sandu (Rom) bt L Andreito (Fr) 6-4 4-8 6-4; A Jearnes (GB) bt M Lamarre (Fr) 6-3 8-0; L Ward (GB) bt T Krican (Stoven) 8-3 4-6 6-4; N Feber (Be) bt E Bes (Sp) 6-3 6-1; J Pulin (GB) bt S-A Siddal (GB) 8-2 6-3; E Tartarkova (Jur) bt A Serra-Zanetti (ft) 2-6 8-1 6-0.

Today's fixtures

Football

THE TIMES FA YOUTH CUP Fourth-round replay: Ipswich v Hui (70), AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION First DIVISIONE LINDIN V QUEEN'S PARK Rangers 20), FRIENDLY MATCHES: Blyth Spartans v Michaelscruph XI (730). Gresley Rouers v Manchester Utd XI (730).

Ice hockey EXPRESS CUP Final: Ayr Scottish Eagles v Bracknell Bees (BD) (at Newcastle Arena) Other sports

BOWLS: English Women's Indicor National Chempionships (Yarmouth).

SNOCKER: Liverpool Victoria Creatily Challenge (Derby), SCHASH: Super Series fired (Herfield), TENNES: Guardian Direct Cup (Battereat Park.)

Football

ON WHAT was a remarkable day by any standards, let alone £1m. one that ended with an impor-Goldberg vesterday concluded his £30m takeover at Crystal Palace. The deal will lead to the replacement of Steve Coppell as the Palace manager, possibly by Terry Venables, to Juventus becoming the first Italian club to have a stake in a Premiership side, and - eventually - to the end of Ron Noades' 17-year reign at Selhurst Park.

For good measure Goldberg also authorised the signing of his first player, with Aston Villa's Sasa Curcic joining Palace for

Goldberg, a 34-year-old tant FA Cup replay, Mark Kent-based computer millionaire, finalised the takeover with Noades, the Palace chairman, in the morning. However, he will not officially take over until October, when his buy-out is technically completed. In the meantime Noades will continue as chairman, although he will have to agree major decisions such as signings in advance

pell, who agreed to become side. "Steve will help implement Palace's new "development di- the Juventus model at Crystal rector of football", at a Palace and will travel around the lunchtime meeting. Goldberg world looking at different trainconfirmed that he is hoping to ing techniques," Goldberg said.

recruit Venables, the former as manager until his replacement is found.

Juventus are taking up a 10 per cent stake in Palace, and are also providing technical exper- as manager, Coppell will work five-year plan for Palace and entise. Coppell has been charged alongside a Juventus executive,

Goldberg later saw Coping to link up with the Serie A Park, while Roberto Bettega, redeveloped 40,000-capacity

"He will also be involved in England coach, to become the implementing the new manclub's new manager with talks agement infrastructure that we between the two likely in the are looking to put into the club. next week Coppell will continue Steve is important to me in terms of my future plans but we will be looking to replace him as manager shortly."

Once he has been replaced

the Juventus vice president, is stadium at Selburst Park and to be invited to become an executive director at Palace. The south London side could also sign Italian players on loan from Juve.

Goldberg explained: "Juventus will be technical directors for football. They have a formula which has been proven over many years to optimise the Britain until next Monday, yet experience and expertise of the is believed to be prepared to playing staff."

visages the club having become mains to be seen. based full-time at Selhurst a force in Europe, playing in a

having transformed their training, management and medical facilities by that time.

Venables, who managed Palace from 1976 to 1980 before leaving for Queen's Park Rangers, is in Malaysia with the Australian national team and is not due to return to listen to offers from any Pre-Goldberg has a grandiose miership club. Whether he will accept one from Palace re-

posit of £10m with the remaining £20m paid upon completion in October to secure 85 per cent of the club's shares, will invest at least £5m on new players over the next 18 months, as well as a similar amount on stadium re-

development plans. Despite Palace being in 19th place in the Premiership, Goldberg's declared aim is to establish them among the élite as they contemplate their third relegation in five years.

"I have a five-year plan to make Palace a club that can compete in Europe. Financially, I have allowed for the

possibility that we could be in the First Division for two of those five years but I can't accept that we will not be able to turn around our fortunes this season and stay up," he ex-

plained. Amid all the bombast, one dissenting was that of Laurie Dahl, editor of the Palace fanzine Echo, who warned: "I wouldn't like Venables back at the club, being one of those that remember the rape of the club that occurred when he left. He took half the team off to QPR,

and it took us years to recover

from that."

Villa quick to put Gregory in command

JOHN GREGORY is the new manager of Aston Villa, who wasted no time in filling the job vacated by Brian Little on Tuesday afternoon. Little barely had time to offer some explanation of his departure at his own press conference yesterday afternoon before Gregory acknowledged that his prime moved into his old office.

It was an environment Gregory was not unfamiliar with, having only a year ago resigned from Little's back-room staff and dropped to the Second Division to take over as manager of Wycombe Wanderers.

Perhaps the increasing doubts over Little's future, which he admitted had played a part in his decision to go, had prompted Villa to give some thought to a successor. Certainly the move for Gregory was quick, as the new manager explained on ClubCall. "I knew at 6 pm yesterday that I had the chance to do the job. We concluded things at about 3 pm today," he said.

nominate their choice from a list my managerial position". of a dozen possible new man-

agers. Gregory was not on it. The man himself said his club. The team had an awful or so - not of my doing."

al·

gr

re

сь

start to the season and it has es-

bells ringing." He said the most important thing was to pick up three points from the match at Liverpool on Saturday. Delighted with the opportunity to be involved in the Uefa Cup quarterfinal against Atletico Madrid, he task of keeping Villa in the Premiership would be hard work. enough for safety.

"Certainly a few days ago, when I was at Wycombe, I mance of the players. wasn't thinking about this job. I think this job has come at the right time. It is also the right time for me to come back to Villa Park. I am going to grasp the opportunity with both hands. It is a huge club and I have been part of it in recent times."

Little's recent times at Villa Park have been filled with intrigue, from what he told the press at Villa's Bodymoor Heath His appointment came as a saying goodbye to the players. after watching Atletico, said: surprise, particularly to the local. He claimed that there were "When I got back I immediately "certain things going on behind phoned offered readers the chance to the scenes which were affecting

He refused to elaborate, but even Gregory felt obliged to distance himself from any involvenew status had taken a while to ment in Little's departure, sink in. Gregory said: "This has saying: "There has been a bit of been a traumatic time for the muck-throwing in the last week

Little hoped that his decision calated. One defeat sent alarm- to leave after three and a half years would ease the growing pressure on the team. Explaining that his resignation after a meeting with the chairman, Doug Ellis, had resulted from "deep and careful consideration" of his position, he said: "I feel my decision was reached for the best interests of Aston Villa, especially in the short term. Over the past few weeks there "I know it is a tough job but I has been growing speculation think 42 or 43 points might be about my position at the football club and I genuinely felt that was affecting the perfor-

> "There were certain things going on behind the scenes which were affecting my managerial position. As a result my decision to resign was not taken lightly - and most definitely not on the spur of the moment. I sincerely hope that my resignation will help ease the pressure the team may have been under."

His assistant manager, Allan Evans, who was on his way training ground yesterday after back from Madrid yesterday hours with him. It wasn't a case of me trying to persuade him to change his mind because he is his own man. Things had gone too far down the line."

> Ellis, and Villa's fans, will hope the same is not the case for the team and its slide towards the relegation zone.



South Africa's Benedict McCarthy (right) shoots goalwards in his team's 2-1 defeat of the Democratic Republic of Congo in the semi-final of the African Nations' Cup in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, yesterday. McCarthy, who plays for Ajax, scored both goals, the second in extra time

plibel

71.00

~·<u>_</u>

. : 54 }

- 3: ::::::;

. 57

12/25 1 **1**

5 i

The state of the state of

THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD

ACROSS Deadly obstacle facing

Henry (6) Animal secured, we hear, to provide seeing ultimately (5,3) 10 Record returns: puts

away round millions from these? (4,5) 11 Compose a setting (5) 12 Tinker dwelt poorly

around Idaho (7) 13 Cause of hill fissure? (7) 1 14 Relief, getting liberal

support (5) 15 Drinks served around ship on river for tipplers

18 Disease of curs spread to US city (8)

deposits (8) Squares accounts (7) Animal's not quite fleet, ailing and old (9) Rank stain in US plant

that's deficient (14) 6 Put off fellow cutting 20 Brush with firm (taking

Straight (a left, not right) from Geordie (7) Audibly gnash second course (6)

Build, intersect in form ding (5) 27 Advocate return of of network made to last Knight in exchange (9) 28 Crook's bad, one con-16 Horseman from Italy cludes (8) carried by upright ani-29 Home by river? Dead

mal (9) 17 Speculated, as revealed, around City (8) Lots of money gent laid

aside (4-3) 21 Clean round note, say 22 Escort's with love in

carriage, look (6) 24 Expert lining a new gar-

Durie on the mend after clash of heads

By Ken Gaunt

The Rangers striker Gordon Durie is expected to be released from hospital today after being carried unconscious from a Scottish Premier Division match.

Durie collapsed on Tuesday night at Rugby Park during the 1-1 draw against Kilmarnock and there were concerns about his health.

Minutes earlier Durie had been involved in an accidental clash of beads with Kilmarnock's Gary Holt on the edge of the Rangers penalty area. He was taken to Glasgow's Southern General Hospital where he regained consciousness after 20

Durie awoke yesterday with a thumping headache and refused breakfast but was well enough to receive visitors, among them was the Rangers manager. Walter Smith, and club captain, Richard Gough.

The secretary of the Scottish Players' Union, Tony Higgins, was among those who sent his best wishes to the Scotland player, but he fears that players outside the Scottish Premier Division may not receive proper medical care if they are injured

in matches. Higgins said: "We argued the case that if there is a head injury during a match, then the referee must stop the game, even if it means denying a team an advantage.

first seeming to be OK, then Tynecastle and always will be. blacking out. Bobby Williamson [Kilmarnock's manager] said that if a player needed treatment after a head wound then perhaps he should

stay off the pitch. "I see his point but I think it would be difficult to impose some kind of a blanket ban on players reappearing. What is essential is that a club doctor is in attendance and that is usually the case especially in Premier Division matches.

"At least in the top division clubs are quite well covered for medical staff but further down the leagues that does not always

"It is a worry that there might not be appropriate medical back-up at some clubs basically because of a lack of "But we would like to see a

club doctor in attendance at league, preferably with a knowledge of head injuries."

eran striker, is joining Dundee on a month's loan but insists the decision was made for him.

The former Scotland international has revealed that the Typecastle management informed him last night he will team up with the Scottish First Division leaders.

"I'm disappointed Jim Jefferies and Billy Brown don't see and proud to be given the chalme involved in the next four or five games as they are important "That was what happened for Hearts," he said. "But they last night, although it was a have said I can return to be part strange one with Gordon at of the run-in. My heart is at match with St Johnstone.

"However I'm a Dundee player for the next month and I guarantee they will get 110 per

cent from me." Robertson has scored 270 goals in his two spells with Hearts, but the arrival of Frenchman Stéphane Adam has restricted him to eight starts this term.

Finn Harri Kampman yesterday took over as coach at Motherwell and insisted it already felt like a second home.

Kampman, 43, has joined the Scottish Premier Division strugglers from Lahti on a two-anda-half- year contract. He made his name as a coach with My-Pa 47 whose Uefa Cup victory over Motherwell in 1995 left a firm impression on the Fir Park

Kampman succeeds Alex McLeish who earlier this month left the club to take charge of every match throughout the Hibernian the only team below Motherwell in the top flight.

"I like the fact that this is John Robertson, Hearts' vet- such a family club it appears very homely and yet at the same time very ambitious. Kampman said.

"With the new Scottish Premiership next season I know it is vital we are not relegated and staying up is my minimum target. "I believe I'm moving to

rope and I was both surprised lenge I have here." Kampman's deputy, Jim Griffin, retained temporary charge for last night's home

one of the best leagues in Eu-

With quick and easy access from anywhere in the UK, the highest quality lines and a 24 hour customer call centre, you have nothing to lose and pounds to gain with PRIMUS, one of the world's largest telecoms providers.

PRIMUS

14p

17p

10p

48p

49p

77p

24p

120p

58%

57%



OPublished by Newspaper Publishing PLC, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E145DL and pranted at Mirror Colour Print. St Back issues available from Historic Newspapers, 01988 840370. ared as a newspaper with the Post Office

23 Unconsidered point (7) 25 Spear fish in river (7)

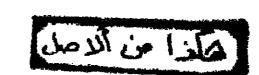
26 Hint, nothing forbid-

right (6)

Spear fish in river (7)

DOWN

Gift recipients take in



Australia

Japan

Canada

India

France/Germany 12p